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BRADY**



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WANTED!



STEVE ARCHIBALD (SPURS)
Age: 27. Scotland caps: 21.
CHANCES OF GOING: ***
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: **

WANTED!



GLENN HODDLE (SPURS)
Age: 26. England caps: 19.
CHANCES OF GOING: **
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: ****

WANTED!



GORDON STRACHAN (ABERDEEN)
Age: 27. Scotland caps: 26.
CHANCES OF GOING: ****
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: ****

OUR WANTED

BRYAN ROBSON (MAN UTD)
Age: 27. England caps: 40.
CHANCES OF GOING: ****
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: ****

HOW THEY RATE:
Excellent:**** Good:***
Fair:** Poor:*

match

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AS Britain's best players anxiously await a 'Spaghetti Western' style swoop from the giants of Italian soccer, exile Liam Brady declares: "There's nothing to fear!"

Adds the Eire and Sampdoria midfield star: "No-one should have any worries about coming out here. If you do your stuff on the pitch, it's a wonderful place to be."

"It's only if things start to go badly on the pitch that you get problems because there is a lot more pressure on the players over here. If you lose, it's a drama."

Liam spent two years with Juventus before teaming up with England international Trevor Francis at Sampdoria and he admits he has "no regrets at all" about leaving Arsenal and England for Italy when he did.

STARRING

But he is just one of a whole host of world class players currently starring in the Italian First Division — the fans flocking to watch the likes of Brazilians Roberto Falcao and Zico and Frenchman Michel Platini.

West German skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is Italy's latest big capture and many more of the world's biggest names look set to follow him as clubs bid to beat the July 1 transfer deadline — banning imports for two years.

Says Liam: "I'm sure there will be a few moves involving British players before the deadline but don't forget there is the whole world to choose from."

"It is a decision a player can only make for himself. No-one is forced into anything."

"But you can't blame British clubs for selling if they are struggling to pay players and they can get good money for one of their stars."

Liam admits that not every side in Italy is loaded with lira and stresses the importance of joining the right club.

"You have to play in a good team wherever you are and the better sides in Italy have the pick of the players."

"I don't think someone of the calibre of Manchester United's Bryan Robson would have any problems in finding the right club but it might be more difficult for someone

WANTED!



RAY WILKINS (MAN UTD)
Age: 27, England caps: 56.
CHANCES OF GOING: **
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: ***

WANTED!



NORMAN WHITESIDE (MAN UTD)
Age: 18, N. Ireland caps: 13.
CHANCES OF GOING: **
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: *

WANTED!



GARY SHAW (ASTON VILLA)
Age: 23, England caps: None.
CHANCES OF GOING: **
CHANCES OF SUCCESS: **

MEN MATCH SPECIAL ON THE GREAT BRITISH SELL-OUT



Liam Brady says
'If you do your stuff, Italy is wonderful'



Joe Jordan says
'Grab the chance if it is offered'

like Glenn Hoddle.

"But I'm sure both would do well over here if the chance came their way and they decided to come. Certainly Bryan could cope with anything."

The presence of so many big names on the scene makes for huge crowds in the Italian League. It's virtually a Cup Final atmosphere for every match.

Says Liam: "Certainly the amount of foreign stars makes the soccer very attractive and the fact that Italy are the World Cup holders increases the enthusiasm among the fans."

"The results count for so much over here — more so than in England — and the standard of the football is good naturally."

HARDER

"Having said that, I believe it's a lot harder for players up front than someone like myself playing in midfield. You don't find the sportsmanship that you have in England."

But if Italy is THE place to play, Liam agrees with the sentiments of Juventus star Michel Platini that the Italian clubs must prove themselves in European club competition.

"I think everybody likes to think their country's League is the best in the world."

"It's hard to judge but I have to admit that success in Europe must reflect the standard of the League and, in saying that, British teams are currently coming out

best."

Former Manchester United and Scotland ace Joe Jordan urges players: "If you get the chance to play here, grasp it straight away."

The Verona striker says: "It's an experience that is second to none and a chance to play against famous names from all corners of the globe."

"If you turn it down, you may never get another opportunity."

Joe, who played for AC Milan before joining Verona, says: "I'm sure a few British players will be tempted to try their luck out here next season."

"That's bad news for the game at home but you can't blame players for wanting to perform on the biggest stage in the world and in front of huge crowds every week."

"Of course there's a lot more pressure on players over here, but you are being paid good money and have to learn to handle it."

"The Italian League is the most intense in the world. Every game is vital because you only play 30 matches in a season and you can't afford a slip-up in any of them."

But despite the added pressure, Joe says: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time out here. It's a beautiful place to live and the lifestyle is fantastic."

It's not all rosy for British exports in Italy as former Watford striker Luther Blissett has found this season with AC Milan.

That's why Joe warns: "It's important that any player thinking of coming here makes sure he will suit his new team's style of play. You have to ask yourself if you can do a job for the club."

"If the answer is yes, you will really enjoy yourself out here. You can blossom."

Two of the top names on the Italian shopping list are Aberdeen's little midfielder Gordon Strachan and Tottenham's England star Glenn Hoddle.

Joe says: "My former Scottish team-mate Gordon could fit into any side. He's got tremendous ability and just the right attitude."

"The fans would love him because he's an entertainer. Although he likes to keep the crowd happy, he doesn't allow it to interfere with his judgement and makes the most of his ability for the good of the team."

CONSISTENT

"Gordon has been very consistent over the last three years and has been the cornerstone of Aberdeen's fantastic success."

"Although Glenn Hoddle would do well in Italy, I don't think clubs out here will be prepared to gamble on his fitness."

"He's been very unlucky with injuries this season and that could cost him his chance. But there's no doubt he's a very polished player."

● **DON'T MISS** Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson's views on the possible loss of Gordon Strachan — Page 22.

By Dave Smith

'HORNETS' hero Neil Price is facing up to the fact that the FA Cup Final could be his last game for Watford.

Says the transfer-listed full-back: "It's quite possible that I could play against Everton on May 19 and then be on my bike."

"My contract at Vicarage Road is up at the end of the season and there's no guarantee that Graham Taylor will renew it."

"But that's all in the future and I'm more concerned with trying to establish myself in the side and book a place in the Final."

The confident youngster with a taste for the big time was drafted into the side for the Semi-Final against Plymouth when an injury ruled out Kenny Jackett.

His eleventh-hour recall to the team came little more than two months after he had been farmed out on loan... ironically to Third Division Argyle.

It's quite a turn around for the stocky defender who says: "If I had joined Plymouth on a permanent basis then I could easily have been playing against Watford at Villa Park."

"But it just goes to show how quickly things can change in football and I'm just delighted to have played my part in our Semi-Final victory."

FINAL PRICE

It's been a season of ups and downs for the 21-year-old who made his first team debut in the UEFA Cup Second Round clash against Levski Spartak in front of 60,000 partisan fans on November 2.

He had to wait another three weeks for his next chance, which came in the blood and thunder local derby against Luton at Kenilworth Road.

And, after just a handful more first team appearances, disaster struck when he was sent off by controversial referee Clive Thomas in the League game at Arsenal on December 17.

He recalls: "I had been booked in the first half for a foul on Charlie Nicholas. That was fair enough but I couldn't believe it when he sent me off for what he claimed was a

second bookable offence.

"I was chasing for the ball with Tony Woodcock when we both collided quite accidentally. I thought he had waved play on so I went through with my tackle which was as clean as a whistle."

"Apparently he had blown up and, when he ran over and saw it was me, he pointed straight to the dressing rooms. I was so shocked I couldn't say a word. Even the Arsenal players protested."

Watford boss Graham Taylor later claimed that Clive Thomas's decision almost wrecked Neil's career but the youngster says: "It didn't do me any favours but I wouldn't go as far as to say that."

"Up until that point, I was doing quite well in the first team and was hopeful of keeping my place. But after the subsequent suspension I

found myself back in the reserves."

And Neil's chances of returning to the first team took a body blow when Watford bought defender Lee Sinnott from Walsall.

He says: "Mr Taylor warned me that I might struggle to get back in the side and he said I would probably be better off getting first team experience somewhere else."

"So about three months ago I went on the transfer list and almost immediately Brentford came in with an offer of a loan move which I was prepared to accept."

"But that fell through when their manager Fred Callaghan was sacked and I didn't hear from them. There wasn't time to feel deflated, however, because Plymouth came straight in for me."

"I went down to the South Coast club on a month's loan but, while I liked the place and the people, things didn't work out for me on the field and I played just one first team game."

"I don't blame manager John Hore for leaving me out though, because Plymouth were doing well in the FA Cup and he couldn't afford to change a winning side just to suit me."

"In the end I decided to return to Watford where I thought I had a better chance of either getting a first team place, or perhaps attracting the interest of another club."

The young full-back battled away in the reserves and his efforts were rewarded when he was included in the squad for the Villa Park Semi-Final.

He says: "I didn't really expect to get in the team. But when Kenny Jackett was ruled out, the boss moved Wilf Roston to midfield and me into the back four."

"I didn't know I was playing for certain until the morning of the match but despite the importance of the occasion I wasn't really nervous. I had played in big games before and knew what to expect."

"In fact I think my family and friends in the crowd were probably more nervous than me and I took everything in my stride. It was a marvellous experience and I enjoyed every minute of it."

"But even though I played well and was pleased with my performance, I know that I'm not assured a place in the Final... or the next League game come to that."

"Whatever happens, at least I have had the satisfaction of playing in a Semi-Final and doing my bit to get the club to Wembley."

Despite the ups and downs of the first year of his professional career, and the uncertainty surrounding his future, Neil maintains a very mature outlook.

He says: "Naturally I would like nothing more than to play at Wembley and, if the terms were right, sign a new contract with Watford because I have been brought up at this club."

"Mr Taylor has said in the Press that I can earn a good living in the game but whether that is at Watford, or somewhere else I don't know."

Despite his reservations Neil did his chances no harm whatsoever with a solid performance against Plymouth.

Neil could say farewell to Watford at Wembley



Right: Watford manager Graham Taylor flicks through a copy of the club book entitled 'A Tale of the Unexpected'. It's up to him now to solve the mystery surrounding the future of Neil Price (above).



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LITTLE Remi Moses has emerged from the shadows of his more illustrious midfield partners to reveal his true international potential.

It wouldn't surprise me to see him capped at full international level very soon. He's certainly as effective as Liverpool's Sammy Lee.

Remi has been inhibited by the presence of established stars like skipper Bryan Robson, Ray Wilkins and Dutchman Arnold Muhren. No-one ever looked further than them.

But he shot to the forefront earlier this month when United faced Italian giants Juventus in the European Cup Winners' Cup Semi-Final at Old Trafford.

Suddenly Remi found himself the senior man in the middle of the park. He was surrounded by Paul McGrath, making his debut in midfield, and young Alan Davies, who had just recovered from a broken leg.

But the former England Under-21 international revelled in the new responsibility. He knitted the midfield together and did really well under pressure.

He was the man who talked Paul and Alan through the game and pulled them into the right positions when they were flagging.

People overlook his skill. He doesn't get the credit he deserves. Remi covers a lot of ground, is a good ball-winner, passes well and has an eye for an opening.

He has been labelled dirty in the past, but that is unfair. He is a hard player and, as such, is bound to get booked during the course of a season. If he didn't, questions would be asked.

He suffered last season because of his 'bad boy' image and referees tended to look out for him. Some players even deliberately tried to get him booked.

But he has matured this term and knows how to handle that. He now just gets on with his job and if there is any trouble, he'll just walk away from it.

While the Juventus game went so well for Remi, I must admit my heart went out to John Gidman,



The Frank Stapleton Column



The Manchester United and Eire favourite names a young star destined for big things... and mourns the passing of one of the game's greats. Don't miss his exclusive column in 'Match' every fortnight.

Left: Remi Moses — international claim.

Below: Trevor Brooking — set to make his final bow at Old Trafford on Saturday.



Wholly Moses!

who hobbled off the pitch after just nine minutes with a hamstring injury. I don't know another player who has been so unlucky with injuries.

He hadn't figured in a first team game for so long and he was desperate to play and put in a good performance against the Italians. I can only wish him a speedy recovery.

After playing so well to hold Juventus to a 1-1 draw, we were all absolutely gutted to lose in the League at Notts County just three days later.

The only consolation was that leaders Liverpool also lost at Stoke that day and we didn't lose any ground in the First Division title race.

But having said that, it's still terribly disappointing to go spurned yet another chance to go ahead of the Merseysiders and it's not the first time we have failed to take advantage of their slips.

We've been in that position six times before and yet only once have we leapfrogged over the League Champions.

We had every incentive to beat County because we knew Liverpool were losing 1-0 at half-time. Unfortunately, despite

REMI STEPS UP TO RUN THE SHOW

intense pressure, we didn't make the most of our chances.

In the end, we gifted County a goal with some bad defensive work. An Ian McParland cross missed everyone and all Trevor Christie had to do was head into an empty net.

Manager Ron Atkinson said after the game that we lacked the killer instinct, but I don't believe our attitude was wrong. We were just mentally tired after our European exertions.

Liverpool may have suffered from the same Euro hangover following their physical game against Dynamo Bucharest of Rumania.

We are back in League action again on Saturday when we entertain West Ham — a game which sees former England star Trevor Brooking's last appearance at Old Trafford.

I can't understand why Trevor is retiring from the game because I saw him on the television against

Queen's Park Rangers last month and he was absolutely brilliant.

Some of his passes were world class and he is the sort of player England could desperately do with now.

If you look at West Ham's best goals over the last four or five years, you'll find that the vast majority were either created or scored by Trevor.

His departure will leave a huge void at Upton Park — similar to the one left at Arsenal by my Eire team-mate Liam Brady when he was transferred to Juventus.

Everyone looked to Graham Rix to take Liam's place and Alan Devonshire is the man who will be expected to fill Trevor's boots.

I don't want to put any extra pressure on the England midfield star, but he'll be expected to stamp his authority on the side. It could even bring the best out of him.

It's unfair to compare Trevor with Alan because there'll only

ever be one Trevor Brooking. He is a brilliant, creative talent.

Three points are vital against West Ham because we've got to win all our home games if we are to stand a chance of winning the Championship.

The following Saturday we travel to Goodison Park for a tough game against FA Cup Finalists Everton. I'm just hoping that their minds are more occupied with Wembley.

Good news last week was that United had officially wrapped up the signing of Dane Jesper Olsen from Ajax and his arrival next season is a tremendous boost for the club and the fans.

United supporters have been weaned on exciting wingers like Steve Coppell and Gordon Hill so they should love our latest capture.

There aren't many good dribblers in the game nowadays and from what I've seen of him, Jesper is a natural. It may take him a little time to find his feet at United but, when he does, I expect him to do well. See you in two weeks!

● Frank Stapleton was talking to Anthony Hawkswell.

'WE FIGHT ON' SAYS ROY McFARLAND

PETER Taylor was hailed as the Derby saviour as he steered the club clear of relegation last season.

Supporters and players alike were convinced he could conjure up a touch of the old Clough-Taylor magic and restore former glories to the Baseball Ground.

But after starting the season among the favourites to win promotion from the Second Division, the 'Rams' have slipped out of contention and into danger.

Yet even while the club was staring relegation straight in the face, there was still a faint hope of success in the FA Cup.

But the embarrassing 1-0 defeat at home to Third Division Plymouth in the Sixth Round signalled the beginning of the end for the ever-critical Taylor.

And so perhaps it was not surprising when Taylor and Derby parted company 'by mutual consent' earlier this month.

What is surprising, however, is that Taylor refused to blame poor results for his departure and insisted the adverse publicity drove him out.

"The accumulation of that publicity was affecting my family and it couldn't go on," he said. "But that doesn't alter my passion for the club and its supporters."

"I had complete freedom to manage the club and to spend money but not the option to move a number of players on. I have no excuses."

Following the departure of Taylor, the job of rescuing the 'Rams' from relegation lies in the hands of his former right-hand man Roy McFarland.

With just nine League games to make an impression when he took charge, Roy was in a similar position to that of his predecessor last season.

But for the former Derby skipper and England centre-half, time is running out and the task now facing his side is immense.

Yet he has instilled a feeling of optimism at the club and he says:

RARELY this season have Derby County been out of the news. Now reporter Dave Smith brings you his special report on the rise and fall of the once-great club . . .

DERBY'S RECORD UNDER SEVEN DIFFERENT MANAGERS SINCE WINNING PROMOTION TO DIVISION ONE UNDER BRIAN CLOUGH IN 1969

Season	Division	Position	Manager
1969/70	One	4th	Brian Clough
1970/71	One	9th	Brian Clough
1971/72	One	Champions	Brian Clough
1972/73	One	7th	Brian Clough
1973/74	One	3rd	Dave Mackay
1974/75	One	Champions	Dave Mackay
1975/76	One	4th	Dave Mackay
1976/77	One	15th	Colin Murphy
1977/78	One	12th	Tommy Docherty
1978/79	One	19th	Colin Addison
1979/80	One	21st	Colin Addison
1980/81	Two	6th	Colin Addison
1981/82	Two	16th	John Newman
1982/83	Two	13th	Peter Taylor

● In each case the manager named is the one in charge at the end of the season.

"We can avoid the drop.

"When I moved into the hot seat, we were seven points adrift of the pack and, after three games, we had reduced that deficit to four.

"We had a good win against Crystal Palace and a creditable draw at Leeds and if the players can produce the commitment and fight I want, we can stay in the Second Division."

On the departure of Taylor, he says: "Deep down I am very upset that Peter has left because he was the man who brought me back to the Baseball Ground.

"But we can't afford to dwell on what has happened in the past and my only concern now is the future and keeping Derby County up.

"After my first few games in charge, the signs looked good but Easter was always going to be the crucial period.

"The supporters here have been incredible this season and the players owe it to them to stay up. After all, they are the ones responsible for saving this club."

As a player, Roy enjoyed a lot of success during the heady days under Brian Clough and he says: "I would like to think I could lead this club back to glory."

DERBY'S



Steve Powell — "It would be a tragedy if this club went down to Division Three".

Left: Happier times for Peter Taylor (left) and Roy McFarland as they celebrate victory over Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup last season. There has been little to cheer about at the Baseball Ground since.

STEVE Powell has been through it all with Derby.

In 12 seasons at the Baseball Ground he has sampled the sweet taste of success and the disappointment and dejection of defeat.

His introduction to senior soccer at the age of 18 coincided with Derby's first-ever Championship success of 1972 and the glory days under Brian Clough.

And, although he made only two appearances during that history-making season, he had to wait just three more years before helping the rampant 'Rams' take the title again with Dave Mackay at the helm.

But sadly, there the success story ends and so began the decline of a once-great club, now just a whisker away from the Third Division.

After staving off the threat of relegation last season, the Midlands club is once more in dire straits — both on and off the field.

But while the battle to keep the club solvent appears to have been won — at least for the time being — on the field the fight has only just begun.

Says Steve, who has made more than 300 League appearances for his one and only club: "We've got it all to do now, but there's still

hope and we won't give up until the very last kick.

"It would be a tragedy if this club went into the Third Division and we'll be fighting tooth and nail to try and make sure that doesn't happen."

It has been a season full of disasters for Derby who were tipped among the promotion favourites last August after finishing the previous campaign in style.

Under the new leadership of Peter Taylor, they lost just one of their last 17 games in the League to reach a respectable mid-table position and Steve says: "We thought we were in with a real chance of going up this season."

"But from the moment we were hammered 5-0 by Chelsea on the opening day, confidence took a knock and things have gone from bad to worse."

"It would be easy to blame the events off the field for our poor performances, but that's no excuse for the way we have played. At the end of the day, we just haven't been good enough."

"Yet despite all the problems, the fans have been tremendous and stuck by us all the way. They have shown a lot of faith in us and it's about time we started to repay their loyalty with success on the field."

The events of this season, which were summed up by the demoralising defeat at the hands of Third Division Plymouth in the FA Cup Sixth Round, are in stark contrast to those of the 1970's when Derby reached dizzy heights under the leadership of Brian Clough.

After guiding the club to Division





Flashback to March 20 and Derby's humiliating FA Cup defeat at the hands of little Plymouth — Andy Rogers scoring direct from a corner. It signalled the beginning of the end for Peter Taylor.

DOWNFALL

'WE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD ENOUGH' SAYS STEVE POWELL

One in 1969, he led them to Championship success just three years later and Steve says: "They were great days for the club."

"Although I was a little young to appreciate it, the taste of success was beautiful and you can put much of it down to one man... Brian Clough."

"Brian Clough was, and still is, a terrific manager and I will always be indebted to him because he was the man who gave me my chance in the game. And like all the players at Derby at the time, I was desperately disappointed when he left."

"We had already enjoyed considerable success under him and Peter Taylor, but the feeling was that if they stayed we could go onto even greater things."

"It was difficult to accept that Brian Clough was no longer a part of the club, but we had to get on with the job and show the same commitment for the new manager Dave Mackay."

The sadness at the departure of the man who was hero-worshipped by players and fans alike was soon forgotten and Derby continued to enjoy success.

They won the Championship for the second time in 1975 — a remarkable achievement according to Steve — but after finishing fourth in the League the

following year, everything went downhill.

Steve points to the FA Cup Semi-Final defeat by Manchester United in 1976 as a turning point and says: "Although you can't really say one event caused the club's downfall, that 2-0 defeat did seem to signal the start."

"Confidence was drained and we struggled to recover from such a massive disappointment. But there were a number of other important factors which contributed to the steady decline."

"For a start, managers came and went in rapid succession after that and each had different ideas about how to run the club and which players he did or didn't want."

"Everyone knows that stability is the key to a club's success and that's something we haven't had at Derby since the Clough days. Over the last five or six years, so many players have come and gone it's incredible."

The turnover of players during the short reign of Tommy Docherty in the late 1970's was the reason why Steve considered leaving the Baseball Ground for the only time of his long career there.

"He brought in a lot of quality players but, as he found to his cost, they don't necessarily make a successful side," recalls Steve.

"Among the players he bought were Bruce Rioch, Don Masson and Gerry Daly and, with them in midfield, I couldn't see myself getting back in the side."

"I have always been a Derby player through and through but I thought seriously at that time of leaving the club because I didn't think I had a future there anymore."

"But fortunately — for me at least — there were a few injuries that season and I got back in the side. I have been a regular ever since."

Apart from the FA Cup Semi-Final defeat in 1976, Steve says his biggest ever disappointment was being relegated from the First Division in 1980.

He says: "Having spent all my career in the top flight, it was difficult to accept that we were going down to the Second Division."

"At the time, players and fans thought we would bounce straight back but as we discovered, the Second Division is very hard to get out of, over the last few years, we haven't really looked like winning promotion."

"We have struggled badly since we made the drop but when Peter Taylor came last season he instilled fresh hope and we began to think we could be on the verge of greatness once more."

"Unfortunately it hasn't worked out that way and we now face the most crucial weeks of the season and probably of my career."

NEXT WEEK

THE FABULOUS FRENCH

A detailed dossier on the host nation in our A-Z of the European Championship contenders.

Plus
THE EUROCRATS — another star to watch in our super colour series.

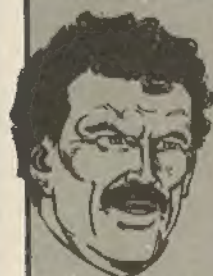
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HOW THEY STAND

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WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	28	17	6	5	88	31	40
Stuttgart	28	15	8	5	63	28	39
Hamburg	28	16	6	6	81	31	38
Borussia Moen.	28	16	6	6	62	38	38
Werder Bremen	28	14	7	7	60	35	35
Bayer Lev.	28	12	7	9	47	44	31
Cologne	28	13	4	11	52	43	30
Arminia	28	10	8	10	36	41	28
Kaiserslautern	28	11	5	12	56	51	27
Fortuna	28	10	7	11	52	52	27
Bayer Verd.	28	10	7	11	52	59	27
Waldhof	28	7	11	10	33	46	25
Eintracht B.	28	11	3	14	44	63	25
Borussia O.	28	9	6	12	42	54	24
Bochum	28	7	7	14	45	62	21
Eintracht F.	28	4	12	12	33	51	20
Kickers	28	5	5	18	34	84	15
Nuremberg	28	6	2	20	33	60	14

LATEST RESULTS: Bayern Munich 4, Nuremberg 2; Borussia Dortmund 4, Waldhof 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Cologne 2; Bayer Lev. 0, Werder Bremen 0; Hamburg 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1; Arminia 3, Kickers 1; Kaiserslautern 2, Bochum 0; Bayer Verd. 4, Eintracht Brunswick 0; Stuttgart 6, Fortuna 0.

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ath. Bilbao	32	18	9	5	49	28	45
Real Madrid	32	20	5	7	55	35	45
Barcelona	32	18	8	6	55	27	44
Atl. Madrid	32	17	7	8	50	43	41
Real Betis	32	16	4	12	42	29	36
Real Sociedad	32	13	9	10	41	33	35
Espanol	32	10	13	9	39	37	33
Zaragoza	32	11	10	11	45	38	32
Malaga	32	10	11	11	40	33	31
Murcia	32	10	11	11	36	34	31
Valencia	32	12	7	13	41	42	31
Sevilla	32	12	7	13	38	40	31
Gijon	32	10	8	14	36	44	28
Valladolid	32	10	7	15	42	58	27
Osasuna	32	11	5	16	29	39	26
Cadiz	32	6	8	18	35	48	20
Malorca	32	3	14	15	26	54	20
Salamanca	32	6	9	18	17	31	19

LATEST RESULTS: Barcelona 2, Salamanca 0; Atletico Madrid 3, Zaragoza 3; Sevilla 2, Cadiz 1; Osasuna 0, Real Sociedad 3; Malorca 1, Valencia 2; Athletic Bilbao 2, Malaga 1; Murcia 1, Real Betis 0; Sporting Gijon 1, Real Madrid 2; Valladolid 0, Espanol 0.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	35	20	9	6	53	28	49
Bordeaux	35	20	8	7	64	31	48
Auxerre	35	19	8	8	56	29	46
Nantes	34	17	8	9	44	27	42
Toulouse	35	18	6	11	55	39	42
Paris S.G.	35	15	11	9	52	37	41
Sochaux	34	12	12	10	43	31	36
Laval	35	12	12	11	29	32	36
Strasbourg	33	10	15	8	32	31	35
Bastia	35	13	8	14	40	38	34
Rouen	34	13	7	14	42	36	33
Lens	35	13	7	15	54	58	33
Lille	35	11	11	13	35	46	33
Nancy	35	9	12	14	36	48	30
Metz	35	10	9	16	37	49	29
Toulon	35	10	8	17	32	55	28
Brest	35	7	13	15	28	42	27
St Etienne	34	10	7	17	29	49	27
Nimes	34	6	12	17	31	60	24
Rennes	35	7	7	21	36	61	21

LATEST RESULTS: Sochaux 0, Toulon 2; Nancy 0, Auxerre 1; Bordeaux 2, Paris St Germain 1; Strasbourg 0, Monaco 1; Rouen 1, St Etienne 1; Toulouse 3, Metz 1; Nantes 4, Brest 0; Laval 3, Lens 0; Lille 0, Bastia 0; Nimes 1, Rennes 1.

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	26	15	8	3	50	21	38
Roma	26	13	9	4	39	21	35
Fiorentina	26	12	9	5	46	28	33
Verona	26	12	6	8	43	28	30
Torino	26	10	10	6	31	23	30
Inter Milan	26	10	10	6	27	19	30
Udinese	26	10	9	7	39	23	29
Ascoli	26	8	10	8	26	31	26
Sampdoria	26	9	7	10	31	28	25
AC Milan	26	7	10	9	25	33	24
Avellino	26	9	5	12	30	38	23
Lazio	26	6	8	12	32	39	22
Naples	26	6	11	9	22	31	21
Genoa	26	4	11	11	18	32	19
Pisa	26	2	15	9	16	30	19
Catania	26	1	9	17	9	43	11

LATEST RESULTS: Ascoli 3, Pisa 2; Fiorentina 3, Lazio 2; Genoa 1, AC Milan 0; Inter Milan 3, Avellino 0; Naples 3, Catania 0; Roma 0, Juventus 0; Torino 0, Udinese 1; Verona 1, Sampdoria 0.

'STOP THIS SQUABBLING' — DERWALL'S PLEA

WEST GERMAN national team boss Jupp Derwall called a crisis meeting for his squabbling players as they prepared to meet France last week in their penultimate European Championship warm-up match.

Derwall, under pressure from the country's media to quit, said he called the meeting in an effort to clear the air and sort out tactics.

And after the meeting he declared: "We will be going back to man-to-man marking. It is the system that made us strong and basically I always knew we would have to go back to using it."

Players revealed that Derwall had appealed to them to stop arguing and show some unity in a bid to retain the European Championship in France this summer.



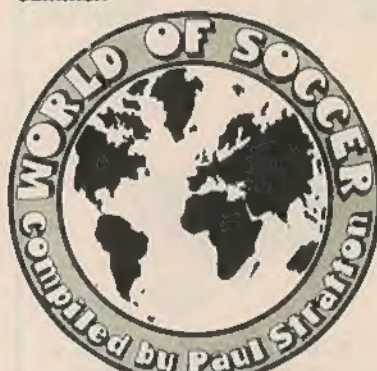
Jupp Derwall — problems.

One of Derwall's biggest critics has been former team skipper Franz Beckenbauer, who has claimed: "Derwall's team is without a system, without co-ordination and without unity. It is tactically backward."

Current skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge — bound for Italy next season — has also criticised the manager's "unsatisfactory" tactics.

■ POLAND'S balding winger Gregorz Lato is quitting football at the end of the season.

Lato, who played in three World Cups and was top scorer in West Germany in 1974, played his 104th and final international against Belgium last week. The 33-year-old, his country's most capped player, is currently playing in Mexico with Atlanta.



Jordan fires Verona winner

FORMER Scottish international Joe Jordan grabbed the vital winner for Verona in their 1-0 Italian League win over Sampdoria.

The result pushed Verona up into fourth place in the table but Juventus retained their three-point lead at the top with a cynical 0-0 draw in front of 75,000 fans at Roma.

The game produced record receipts of £400,000 for Roma at the Olympic Stadium but it was a dull affair.

Falcão returned for Roma after injury and Michel Platini likewise for Juventus, but neither was in good form and the French 'European Footballer of the Year' found himself booked and then substituted midway through the

second half as Juventus put up the shutters to preserve a precious point which may, at the end of the day, clinch the Championship.

Roma's local rivals Lazio appeared to be fighting their way out of relegation trouble when Danish international Michael Laudrup put them ahead against Fiorentina but two goals from Argentinian star Daniel Passarella helped the home side to a 3-2 victory.

■ FEYENOORD beat Excelsior 2-0 in the Rotterdam derby encounter to go two points clear at the top of the Dutch League.

The first goal came from a Peter Houtman penalty and the other followed some brilliant work by Johan Cruyff.

■ BENFICA stretched their lead at the top of the Portuguese League with a 2-0 win at Salgueiros while second placed Porto drew 1-1 at Setubal. Benfica's goals came from international striker Dia Mantino. Benfica lead by three points with four games to go.

■ BRAZILIAN World Cup winger Eder has been given a three-month suspended prison sentence for attacking one of his team-mates during training.

A judge in Belo Horizonte described his actions as delinquent. This means Eder cannot leave Brazil to play abroad for two years without special permission and could rule him out of Brazil's planning for the 1986 World Cup.

STIELIKE STRIKES

WITH two games to go, the race for the Spanish League Championship remained wide open.

A last-minute goal by West German international Uli Stielike enabled Real Madrid to hold onto second spot with a 2-1 win at Sporting Gijon.

Meanwhile Barcelona kept up the pressure on leaders Athletic Bilbao when they beat Salamanca 2-0 with goals from Jose Moratella and Diego Maradona.

Bilbao needed a penalty to beat Malaga.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beveren	30	18	7	5	51	32	43
Anderlecht	29	17	7	5	70	33	41
Bruges	30	14	8	7	58	35	37
Standard Liege	30	15	6	9	52	38	36
Waregem	30	14	6	10	49	39	34
Seraing	30	14	5	11	54	45	33
Antwerp	30	11	10	9	47	39	32
Malines	30	9	13	9	39	40	31
Waterchei	29	12	6	11	39	40	30
Lokeren	30	11	7	12	39	36	29
Carole Bruges	30	11	7	12	32	35	29
Courtrai	30	9	8	13	32	34	26
Ghent	30	9	7	14	34	40	25
Liege	30	8	8	14	32	45	24
Boerschot	30	8	11	13	39	63	23
Lierse	30	8	7	15	36	55	23
Molenbeek	30	8	10	14	30	42	22
Beringen	30	7	6	16	27	59	20

LATEST RESULTS: Carole Bruges 3, Courtrai 1; Lokeren 2, Seraing 0; Waregem 1, Bruges 0; Molenbeek 2, Beveren 0; Standard Liege 2, Beringen 0; Antwerp 1, Malines 1; Liege 1, Boerschot 1; Lierse 0, Ghent 0.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	29	21	6	2	83	20	48
Eindhoven	29	20	6	3	73	26	46
Ajax	29	19	6	4	85	38	44
Haarlem	29	12	11	6	48	41	35
Sparta	29	11	12	6	66	48	34
Roda	29	12	8	9	50	45	32
Utrecht	29	13	6	10	59	55	32
Go-Ahead	29	11	8	10	43	45	30
Groningen	29	10	9	10	48	45	29
AZ 67	29	10	8	11	52	47	28
Den Bosch	29	8	10	11	39	45	26
Excelsior	29	11	4	14	48	53	25
PEC Zwolle	29	9	8	12	46	59	26
Fortuna	29	7	8	14	31	51	22
Volendam	29	7	6	16	31	59	20
Willem	29	5	5	19	25	57	15
DS78	29	6	2	21	29	67	14
Helmond	29	4	5	20	45	81	13

LATEST RESULTS: Willem 1, PEC Zwolle 2; Eindhoven 3, Groningen 1; Go-Ahead 0, Den Bosch 1; Utrecht 2, Volendam 2; DS 79 0, Helmond 4; Sparta 1, Fortuna 1; Excelsior 0, Feyenoord 2; Roda 0, Haarlem 1; AZ 67 1, Ajax 1.

Are you this week's lucky winner?

HERE'S your chance to join the winners in 'GO FOR GOAL' — the big prize game that's exclusive to 'Match readers.

This week sees the final set of grid references for MATCH 5.

Check them against your 'GO FOR GOAL' card and if you can correctly claim a 'Clear Pitch' (see HOW TO PLAY) ring the hot-line telephone number (see HOW TO CLAIM).

Just look at the selection of prizes from which you can choose...



★ An Aquarius computer! ★ A Sharp stereo radio cassette player! ★ A Fidelity music centre! ★ A BMX bike! ★ A Philips 14-inch black and white TV plus a Binatone Moontime clock radio lamp! ★ A Casio musical keyboard plus calculator! ★ A Binatone Visioncorder with five-inch TV, radio and cassette recorder! ★ Sports gear to the value of £100!

And there are consolation prizes too for everyone who correctly claims a 'Clear Pitch'. So get checking against your 'GO FOR GOAL' card.

After MATCH 5 there are still three more games to come so keep your 'GO FOR GOAL' card safe — it still means weeks of fun.

GO FOR GOAL CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

You can get an exclusive 'GO FOR GOAL' card for yourself, friend or relative simply by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: 'GO FOR GOAL' cards, EMAP Marketing Department, Bretton Court, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DZ.

Get tuned in and listen to your favourite tracks on this superb Sharp radio/cassette player complete with twin speakers to give you spot-on stereo sound. It's sweet music to your ears.

MATCH 5 YOUR FINAL GRID REFERENCES

HOW TO PLAY

1. Your 'Go For Goal' card has eight different games marked on it. Each game has a pitch with 21 footballs — all you have to do is knock them all into the goal. BUT — you can only shoot with the balls located in the grid squares printed each week in Match Weekly!
2. If any of the grid references printed in Match coincide with the location of a football on your pitch, cross out that ball — it's in the net! When you have crossed out all the balls on a pitch, ring Match and claim 'Clear Pitch'! Each game lasts for two weeks, so always make sure the pitch you are using corresponds to the game currently being played.

HOW TO CLAIM

1. When you have crossed off all the balls on the pitch and double checked that ALL the grid numbers you have used are for the correct game, telephone 0733-260573 between 4.00pm and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Claims must be made between Match Weekly's Wednesday day of sale and the Tuesday preceding the next issue. (Claims made outside these times will be void.)
2. You must have your card with you when making a claim.
3. When checking your card, begin with the top grid references of the column and work down. When you have crossed off the final ball make a note of the last grid reference you used — you will be asked this when you telephone.
4. You will also have to correctly answer the following three questions:—
 - a) Which team won the Second Division Championship last season (1982-83)?
 - b) Which team won the FA Cup in 1983?
 - c) Who were runners-up in the 1983 FA Cup Final?
5. If you can correctly claim Clear Pitch, you will win a prize. BUT, in the event of several correct claims the main prize will be awarded to the cardholder claiming on the earliest grid reference with which he completed his card — remember we begin at the top of the column and work down.
6. In the event of two or more correct claims on the same grid reference, a prize to the value of £100 will be shared by the winners.

RULES

EMAP staff and their close relatives are not eligible to play. It is not a condition of entry or claiming that entrants prove purchase of Match Weekly. The Editor's decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into. We will ask to see winning cards.

MATCH 6 STARTS NEXT WEEK



Choose from these super BMX bikes.

Craig Robinson is our latest winner

THE latest lucky winner of our super Go For Goal game is Craig Robinson, of Market Rasen, who has chosen the Binatone Visioncorder as his prize. Also claiming a 'Clear Pitch' for MATCH THREE were: Ian Funnell, St. Leonards on Sea; Alan Wilson, Bredbury, Stockport; Adam Green, Wokingham; Nicholas Brown, Belton, Great Yarmouth and Ian Cowley, Oakley, Bedford.





No 2 THE EUROCRATS

EIGHT TO WATCH IN FRANCE
LUIS Arconada is as much a part of Spain as the bullfighting which abounds the sun-kissed land of the siesta.

In the build-up to the 1982 World Cup Finals, his swarthy good looks beamed out from every poster advertising everything from orange juice to jeans. Once regarded as 'Europe's Number One' the Real Sociedad stopper made his first full outing for Spain in 1977 and the 30-year-old has gone on virtually unchallenged.

MATCH VERDICT: Outstanding on his day and his popularity with the fans speaks for itself.
MATCH RATING: 7

Luis Arconada Spain

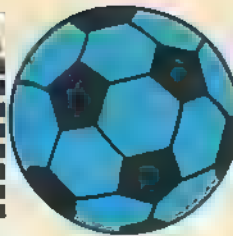
match

**BOBBY
SMITH**

Leicester City



canon



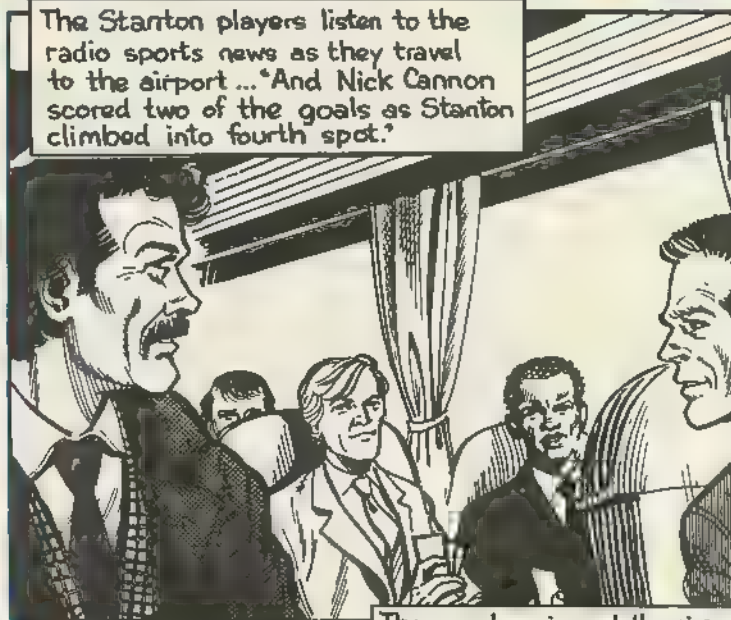
BENIDORM HOLIDAY

Stanton Town, flushed with success after their 3-0 win at Colchester — a victory that pushes them back into the Fourth Division promotion bracket — begin their way to pain.

Manager Harry Cannon & men are the guests of new Stanton director Dave Dawkins, the from man for four operators Cosmic Holidays, for their mid-season hunt to the Costa Blanca.

But what Harry does not realise is that the mysterious man with the ring, who has a personal grudge against the Stanton boss, is a co-owner of the travel firm — and he has arranged for one of his henchmen, Terry Tiler, to join the Stanton party — and make things really hairy.

The Stanton players listen to the radio sports news as they travel to the airport... "And Nick Cannon scored two of the goals as Stanton climbed into fourth spot."



WHAT ABOUT MY GOAL?



The coach arrives at the airport where Harry meets Dave Dawkins of Cosmic Travel, Stanton's new sponsors.

MEET TERRY TILER, HARRY. HE'LL BE LOOKING AFTER THE ARRANGEMENTS IN SPAIN.

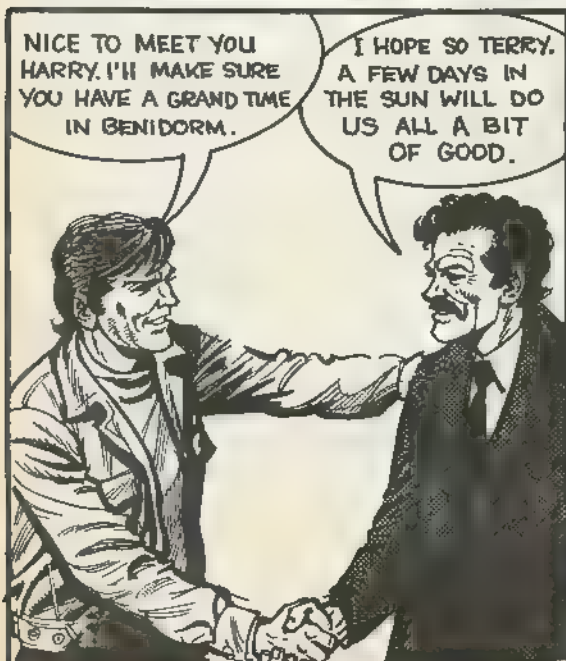
TERMINAL 3



NICE TO MEET YOU HARRY. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GRAND TIME IN BENIDORM.

I HOPE SO TERRY. A FEW DAYS IN THE SUN WILL DO US ALL A BIT OF GOOD.

DAN AIR FLIGHT 9064 TO ALICANTE BOARDING FROM GATE THREE.



The players get into the holiday spirit as they board the plane.

OLÉ

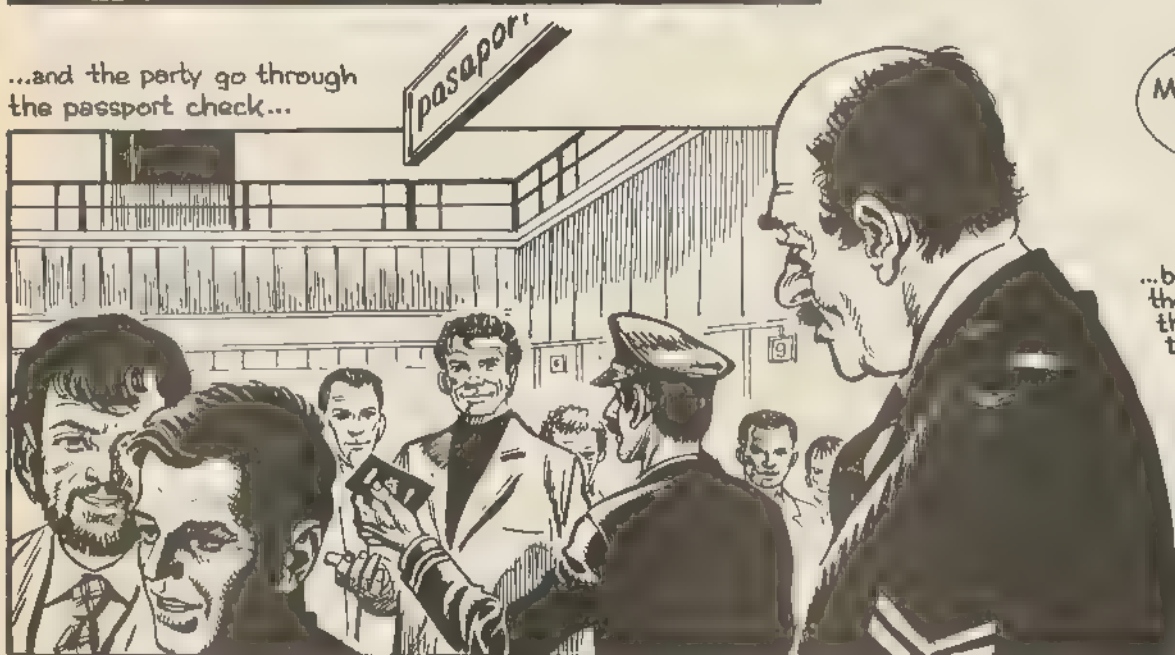




Arrival at Alicante airport...



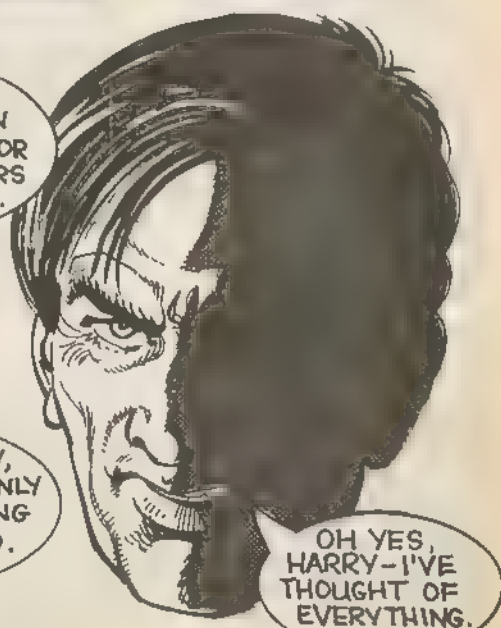
...and the party go through the passport check...



THIS IS MORE MY STYLE. I HATE FLYING.

YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO IT - I FANCY US FOR EUROPE NEXT SEASON!

...before boarding the coach for the short trip to Benidorm.



NEXT WEEK:
Harry goes talent-spotting and Terry Tiler tries a spot of sabotage.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SOCCER?

Top Ten quiz

ARE you a soccer superbrain? Score 8-10 excellent; 6-8 good; 4-6 average; below 4 keep reading 'Match'.

- 1 From which club did midfielder Glenn Cockerill join Sheffield United?
- 2 Who scored Manchester United's equaliser in their Cup Winners' Cup Semi-Final, first leg clash with Juventus earlier this month?
- 3 Can you name Everton striker Andy Gray's previous clubs?
- 4 Which club is nicknamed the 'Terriers'?
- 5 Tottenham Hotspur are sponsored by which lager brewers?
- 6 Scottish winger Jim Tolmie joined Manchester City from which Belgian club?
- 7 Which Scottish club plays at Hampden Park?
- 8 Who are the current holders of the European Cup?

9 Who scored England's winning goal in the 1-0 British Championship defeat of Northern Ireland earlier this month?

10 Derby defender Kenny Burns began his League career at which First Division club?

CHELSEA CHALLENGE

HOW'S your knowledge of Chelsea FC? Here are six questions about the famous London club.

1. Other than John Neal, Chelsea have had nine different managers since the last War. Can you name three of them?
2. Who was the club's leading scorer last season and where is he now?
3. Chelsea have won the First Division Championship only once, when was it?
4. Who did the 'Blues' beat in the Final of the League Cup in 1965?
5. Chelsea beat Leeds 2-1 in a replay to win the FA Cup in 1970. Can you name their two famous scorers?
6. Can you name popular full-back Joey Jones' former League clubs?

CRYPTIC QUIZ

CAN you identify the players from the following clues?

- 1 You can tell there's something funny going on when he's at Upton Park.
- 2 This Kenilworth Road youngster might be 'tyred' after a game.
- 3 Stanton Town's manager might be related to this Selhurst Park star.
- 4 This striker from the Potteries is a dab hand when it comes to scoring goals.
- 5 'That's another fine mess you've got us into' might lead you to the name of this 'Pommy' player.
- 6 A Carrow Road star might do this if he ripped his shorts.

THESE four stars have got their faces all mixed up. We want you to turn soccer detective by correctly piecing together the different sections in identikit fashion to reveal their true identities.

IDENTIKIT



Player Jumble

UNRAVEL the jumbled-up letters to reveal the identity of a First Division player.

g kra Rih
T MW

MATCH 'EM UP

MATCH the clubs on the left with the countries on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 Udinese | A France |
| 2 Beveren | B West Germany |
| 3 Utrecht | C Belgium |
| 4 FC Cologne | D Italy |
| 5 Zaragoza | E Holland |
| 6 Nantes | F Spain |

SCORE

HERE'S your chance to chop the champ!

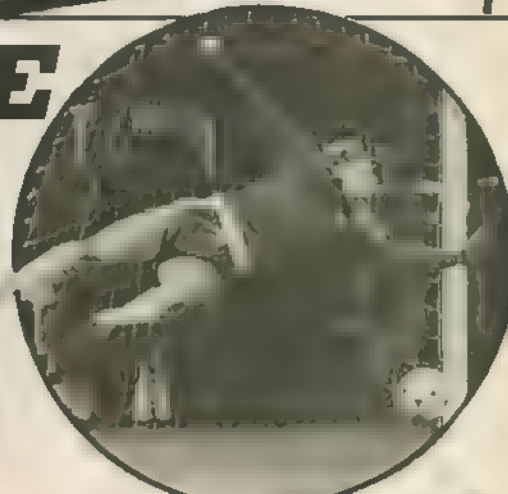
Our own Melvyn Beck is the greatest for soccer predictions. See whether you can make our champ a champ!

Each week he'll be selecting ten of Saturday's fixtures in England and Scotland.

The Champ will use his crystal ball and there'll be a space for you to fill in your forecasts and a column for the actual result.

Award two points for every correct score and one point if the result is correct (i.e. home win, away win, draw).

Carry the points totals forward next week and at the end of the season you'll discover whether you've managed to 'Beat Beck'. But you can't!



Saturday, April 28	Champ's forecast	Your forecast	Result
Liverpool v Ipswich	3-0		
Luton v Watford	2-2		
QPR v Tottenham	2-1		
Derby v Manchester City	1-0		
Chelsea v Leeds	3-0		
Sheff. Wed. v C. Palace	2-0		
Newport v Oxford	1-2		
Walsall v Wigan	2-0		
Reading v Bury	1-1		
Dundee v Aberdeen	1-2		

WHO WON THIS WEEK?

Points scored
Champ
Yourself

AGGREGATE SCORES CARRIED FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Champ
Yourself

SOLUTIONS

TOP TEN QUIZ: 1 Lincoln; 2 Alan Davies; 3 Dundee United; Aston Villa and Wolves; 4 Huddersfield; 5 Holsen; 6 Lakeren; 7 Queens Park; 8 SV Hamburg; 9 Tony Woodcock; 10 Birmingham.
CHELSEA CHALLENGE: 1 Billy Birrell, Ted Drake, Tommy Docherty, Dave Sexton, Ron Stuart, Eddie McCreadie, Ken Shellito, Danny Blackbrier and Geoff Hurst; 2 Mike Fillery, who's now at QPR; 3 1954/55; 4 Leicester (3-2 on aggregate); 5 Peter Dargod and David Webb; 6 Wrexham (twice) and Liverpool.
MATCH 'EM UP: 1 D; 2 C; 3 E; 4 B; 5 F; 6 A.
CRYPTIC QUIZ: 1 GIVE GOODBYE; 2 PAUL MENDHAM; 3 PAUL MENDHAM; 4 PAUL MENDHAM; 5 GIVE GOODBYE; 6 PAUL MENDHAM.
PLAYER JUMBLE: Mark Wright (Southampton).
IDENTIKIT: Peter Barnes A, M, F, Gordon Davies B, David Moss C, Leigh James J, E, I.

SOUTHAMPTON'S evergreen striker Frank Worthington refuses to accept that he will never grace a Wembley cup final.

Even at the age of 35 and now in the twilight of his distinguished career, he insists: "There's always next year."

But that defiant gesture cannot hide the disappointment he feels following the 'Saints' heart-breaking defeat at the hands of Everton in the FA Cup Semi-Final at Highbury a fortnight ago.

Already twice on the losing side just 90 minutes away from Wembley, the much-travelled entertainer hoped he was finally going to realise a life-long ambition.

But his dream was left in tatters when the 'Toffee-men' denied him a taste of glory with a goal from Adrian Heath 27 minutes into extra-time.

He says: "After so long in the game with little or nothing to show

for it I was beginning to wonder whether my luck would ever change.

"And so when we got to the Semi Final stage I had to be realistic and think that this would be my last chance to play in a Wembley final.

"But now I've got to be optimistic and hope that I can go all the way next season."

Looking back on his earlier disappointments, Frank recalls: "I was on the losing side with Huddersfield in 1969 when we were beaten in the League Cup Semi-Finals by Arsenal

"And then, when I was at Leicester, I was in the side which lost to Liverpool in an FA Cup Semi-Final replay in 1974.

"So you can imagine how disappointed I was to miss out at the third time of asking this season — and to lose in the last few minutes made it even harder to bear.

"All along we felt that this would be Southampton's year in the Cup

and for most of the match at Highbury we were confident of snatching a victory.

"But when they got a goal so late on with a replay looking inevitable — there was no time for us to come back and the Wembley dream was broken."

Frank points to the ineffectiveness of midfield general Steve Williams as a major reason for the 'Saints' defeat.

He says: "There was a big question mark over Steve's fitness but the manager decided to take a risk and play him because he is such a key figure in the side.

"Sometimes that sort of gamble pays off, but unfortunately it backfired on us and Steve never really took control of the midfield like he normally does."

With their FA Cup dream shattered, Southampton's only chance of success this season is to secure a place in Europe and Frank says: "That's well within our grasp

"We have already beaten a

number of the top teams in the First Division this season and providing we can put the disappointment of the Cup behind us I'm confident we can finish in the top six.

"Qualifying for Europe would be an excellent achievement and it would cap a marvellous season for the club and me personally. I just hope I will be part of things next term."

Frank's contract at The Dell expires at the end of the season, but he hopes his performances in the 'Saints' front line over the past nine months will persuade manager Lawrie McMenemy to renew it.

"If the boss thinks I can give him another year's service in the top flight then I would be delighted to stay," says Frank.

"I still have great belief in my own ability and I'm sure I can go on playing at the highest level for at least one more year, and maybe even two

"But at the end of the day it's down to the manager to decide whether I'm still good enough, so the ball's in his court."

Certainly, if the voice of the fans is anything to go by, the popular striker can play his part in Southampton's Championship assault next season.

But while Frank is very much a firm favourite down on the South Coast at the moment, it's not been the case all season

Soon after joining the club from Sunderland at the start of the season, the former England international became a target for abuse from a section of the crowd.

He recalls: "I was getting quite a bit of stick early on because some of the fans were judging me simply on the number of goals I was scoring.

"But I think I have won them over now and for the last couple of months their attitude towards me has been fantastic."

THREE-TIME LOSER!

'But there's always next year' says Worthington



Frank Worthington — third time unlucky.



Everton's Adrian Heath — shattered Frank's Wembley dream.



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MISERY OF THE OTHER MERSEY TEAM

EVERTON goalkeeping hero Nav Southall would be made pretty welcome at Merseyside's De La Salle school.

And Liverpool defensive pair Mark Lawrenson and Alan Hansen would almost certainly be met with open arms.

De La Salle's Under-15 team has a problem you see... and it's at the back.

In four years they have won just one game and conceded close on 1000 goals!

And their record 24 conceded in one match shoots them to the top of our exclusive 'Back Achers' League at the expense of last week's leaders Stevington Under-12's.

SCHOOLS SPOT

Yorkshire is making a fresh challenge in the shape of Eastfield Secondary (Halifax) and they share fourth place with Sherburn Juniors.

In the 'Net Bulgars' League there's a new name in second spot with St Edwards Under-14 1st XI claiming 23 goals in one match but the leaders are still the sharpshooters of Fitzwimarc.

How does your school team rate alongside those feature this week?

Get together with your school-mates and let us hear about your side.

Fill in the special coupon below and send it off to: Schools Soccer, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ. REMEMBER TO GET THE COUPON SIGNED BY YOUR PE TEACHER.

NET BULGERS LEAGUE

School Team	Most goals scored in one match
1 Fitzwimarc (Rayleigh)	25
2 St Edwards U-14 1st XI (Wendover)	23
3 Gurnell (London W7)	21
4 Birkenhead Prep 1st XI	20
5 Mortimer Comprehensive (South Shields)	16

BACK ACHERS LEAGUE

School Team	Most goals conceded in one game
1 De La Salle U-15 (Liverpool)	24
2 Stevington U-12 (Beds)	18
3 Carisbrooke High U-16 (Newport)	14
4 Sherburn Junior 1st XI (Durham)	13
4 Eastfield Secondary (Halifax)	13

ENTRY FORM

(block capitals please)

Name of school team

Address

Name of sender

Most goals scored
in one game

Most goals conceded
in one game

Anything else of interest about your school
team

(Continue on separate piece of paper if
necessary)

Teacher's signature

DENMARK



Allan Simonsen
(inset) and
celebrating his
penalty winner
over England at
Wembley.

Jesper Olsen —
bound for
Manchester
United next
season.

THE JOKES

THE jokes about beer and bacon had to stop.

No longer is Denmark famed only for brewing "possibly the best lager in the world" or the stuff that makes breakfast go with a sizzle.

It was all rammed firmly down the throats of the critics on a warm summer evening in Athens last November, when a 2-0 victory over Greece sent Denmark's soccer hopefuls into the European Championship Finals... and England spinning out.

Now Denmark find themselves one of the favourites to win in France this summer and will earn the utmost respect of their immediate opponents France, Yugoslavia and Belgium.

Certainly England will testify to Denmark's prowess following a 2-2 draw in Copenhagen and that fateful 1-0 defeat at Wembley courtesy of an Allan Simonsen penalty — which all but ended the hopes of Bobby Robson's men.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS RECORD

1960 — First Round. 1964 — Semi-Finals. 1968 — Failed to qualify. 1972 — Failed to qualify. 1976 — Failed to qualify. 1980 — Failed to qualify.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL FIXTURES

GROUP ONE

June 12 — France (Paris). June 16 — Yugoslavia (Lyon). June 19 — Belgium (Strasbourg).

COLOURS

Shirts: Red with white trim.
Shorts: White with red trim. Socks: Red.

PROBABLE SQUAD

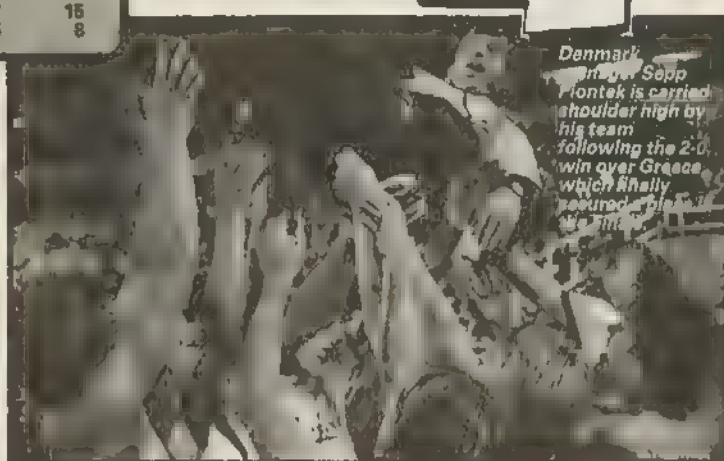
Player	Club	Age	Caps
GOALKEEPERS			
Ole Kjaer	Esberg	29	26
Troels Rasmussen	Aarhus	23	4
Ole Qvist	Copenhagen	34	22
DEFENDERS			
Jan Moelby	Ajax	22	6
Soren Busk	Ghent	30	25
Ole Rasmussen	Hertha Berlin	32	36
Morten Olsen	Anderlecht	34	59
Ivan Nielsen	Feyenoord	27	13
Ole Madsen	Brondby	25	17
Frank Arnesen	Anderlecht	28	32
John Sivebaeck	Vejle	22	15
MIDFIELD			
Per Frimann	Anderlecht	21	2
Allan Simonsen	Vejle	31	43
Jens Jorn Bertelsen	Seraing	32	40
Soren Lerby	Bayern Munich	25	33
Klaus Berggreen	Pisa	25	11
John Lauridsen	Espanol	24	12
Pierre Larsen	Hvidovre	25	0
STRIKERS			
Michael Laudrup	Juventus	19	9
Jesper Olsen	Ajax	22	15
Preben Elkjaer	Lokeren	26	34
Kenneth Brylle	Anderlecht	24	5
Allan Hansen	Hamburg	27	15
Michael Manniche	Benfica	25	8

CONTINUING our exciting new European Championship series ... an A-Z dossier on the teams who will be competing in France this summer.

Each week up to the start of the Finals we'll be bringing you a detailed look at the eight hopefuls.

And watch out for the special 'Match Verdict' with a star rating out of five indicating each nation's chance of success.

Last week we featured Belgium and now Denmark come under the spotlight.



Denmark manager Sepp Piontek is carried shoulder high by his team following the 2-0 win over Greece which finally secured their place in the Finals.

HAVE TURNED INTO RESPECT

The England boss knew only too well the size of the task at hand, when he said.

"The Danes have emerged as our closest rivals, and that doesn't really surprise me.

"They are a country I rated all along because they are stiff opposition when they can rally their best players from various points across Europe.

"Probably Denmark's outstanding quality is their ability to attack and score goals and they are very dangerous on the counter-attack.

One goal proved enough that night but Denmark scored 17 in total during the qualifying stages — Allan Simonsen and Preben Elkjaer alone responsible for virtually half the tally.

There may be fitness doubts surrounding Simonsen following a knee operation but if 100 per cent he is sure to play a key role in France.

He's now back with his original home club Vejle after playing for Borussia Moenchengladbach, Barcelona and Charlton Athletic.

He makes up for his lack of inches with a rare potency in front of goal that made him the first Scandinavian to win the European Footballer of the Year Award in 1977 and has seen him go on to blast more than 200 goals.

But Simonsen is one of the few home-based players likely to make any kind of impact in France — most of their key men receiving the call from manager Sepp Piontek in

various points around Europe.

Indeed it was the Danes' failure to secure the services of their exiled stars which led to their 6-0 hammering at the hands of Holland in a friendly in March of this year.

Esberg goalkeeper Ole Kjaer will have no such problems with his defence in France.

All eyes of course will be on Jesper Olsen, currently with Ajax but the man who is bound for Manchester United next season.

It was Olsen who scored the dramatic late equaliser against England in their first confrontation in the qualifiers and whose tight control and devastating pace make him a handful for any opposition.

Michael Laudrup who may yet find his way to Liverpool following this season's spell on loan to Lazio from Juventus is another who may make his mark although his lack of experience of the big occasion may be against him.

But there will be no such problems for Soren Lerby of Bayern Munich who was signed by Ajax as a teenager and quickly developed into the all-purpose type of Dutch footballer with native Danish skills.

There are others too, such as the vastly experienced Morten Olsen and the British-sounding Allan Hansen and if Denmark have lost none of their impetus that carried them through to France, you can forget all about the beer and the bacon ... the opposition will have had their chips!



Soren Lerby — experienced campaigner.

How they got there

GROUP THREE (Denmark, England, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg).

September 22, 1982

DENMARK (0) 2 (Hansen pen 80, Olsen 90)

ENGLAND (1) 2 (Francis 3, 81)

Att: 45,000 (in Copenhagen)
Denmark: Rasmussen T., Rasmussen O., Busk, Roentved, Nielsen, Lerby, Bertelsen, Olsen, Hansen, Elkjaer, Bastrup.

November 10, 1982

LUXEMBOURG (0) 1 (Di Domenico 54)

DENMARK (1) 2 (Lerby pen 29, Berggreen 67)

Att: 2,000 (in Luxembourg)
Denmark: Qvist, Rasmussen O., Nielsen, Roentved, Busk, Lerby, Olsen M., Lauridsen, Olsen J. (sub. Donnemsted), Larsen (sub Berggreen), Bastrup.

April 27, 1983

DENMARK (0) 1 (Busk 77)

GREECE (0) 0

Att: 34,000 (in Copenhagen)
Denmark: Kjaer, Rasmussen O., Olsen M., Busk, Madsen, Bertelsen, Lauridsen, Olsen J. (sub Bastrup), Simonsen (sub Sivebaeck), Larsen, Berggreen.

June 1, 1983

DENMARK (1) 3 (Elkjaer 4, Olsen J. 81, Simonsen pen 85)

HUNGARY (1) 1 (Nyilasi 30)

Att: 45,000 (in Copenhagen)
Denmark: Kjaer, Rasmussen O., Olsen M., Nielsen, Madsen, Bertelsen, Simonsen, Lauridsen (sub Olsen J.), Lerby, Berggreen, Elkjaer (sub Brylle).

September 21, 1983

ENGLAND (0) 0

DENMARK (0) 1 (Simonsen pen 39)

Att: 92,000 (in London)
Denmark: Kjaer, Rasmussen O., Busk, Olsen M. (sub Moelby), Nielsen, Simonsen, Bertelsen, Lerby, Berggreen, Laudrup (sub Larsen), Olsen J.

October 12, 1983

DENMARK (4) 6 (Laudrup 6, 24, Elkjaer 37, 57, Simonsen 42, Laudrup 72)

LUXEMBOURG (0) 0

Att: 45,000 (in Copenhagen)
Denmark: Kjaer, Nielsen, Olsen M., Busk, Bertelsen, Lauridsen, Olsen J., Simonsen, Laudrup, Elkjaer (sub Christensen), Berggreen (sub Frimann).

October 26, 1983

HUNGARY (0) 1 (Kiss 56)

DENMARK (0) 0

Att: 10,000 (in Budapest)
Denmark: Kjaer, Nielsen, Olsen M., Lauridsen (sub Elkjaer), Busk, Simonsen, Bertelsen, Lerby, Berggreen, Laudrup, Olsen J.

November 16, 1983

GREECE (0) 0

DENMARK (1) 2 (Elkjaer 16, Simonsen 47)

Att: 35,000 (in Athens)
Denmark: Kjaer, Nielsen, Rasmussen O. (sub Lauridsen), Busk, Olsen M., Lerby, Simonsen (sub Arnesen), Bertelsen, Olsen J., Berggreen, Elkjaer.

GROUP THREE (final table)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DENMARK	8	6	1	1	17	5	13
ENGLAND	8	5	2	1	23	3	12
GREECE	8	3	2	3	8	10	8
HUNGARY	8	3	1	4	18	17	7
LUXEMBOURG	8	0	0	8	5	36	0

MATCH VERDICT ★ ★ ★

ONLY France and West Germany appear to stand in their way of European glory. Manager Sepp Piontek has built a settled team and provided they haven't peaked, too early they must stand a chance in the Finals.

Pen pals

I'M a 14-year-old Man Utd fan and my favourite players are Bryan Robson and Gary Bailey. My favourite groups include Modern Romance, Duran Duran and Wham! I'd like a pen pal aged between 13 and 15. Emma Hathaway, 186 Broadstone Rd, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, Manchester SK4 5HW.

I LISTEN to most music and play most sports and would like a pen pal who lives in Britain. I'm 14-years-old and support Q.P.R. Mark Whyley, 14 St Edmunds Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8RF.

MICHAEL Jackson is one of my favourite pop stars and I support Coventry. I would like to write to anyone with the same interests. Julian Edun, 1 Faith Crescent, Benim, Bendal State, Nigeria, West Africa.

I AM 13-years-old and my favourite teams are Morton and Bolton. My favourite pop group is Madness. I follow the fortunes of the England cricket team and also enjoy snooker. Gareth Ewing, 56 Whitelea Road, Kilmecolm, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

I AM a Liverpool fan and I would like to write to another Liverpool supporter. Sakkoulas Nick, 58 Sina Street, 108-73, Athens, Greece.

I AM a devoted Doncaster Rovers fan and also support Manchester United. I'm 18 years of age and like rock 'n' roll music. I'd like to write to someone who is also mad about the 'Red Devils'. Kathie Morgan, 20 Sherwood Drive, Skellaw, Doncaster, S. Yorks.

I WOULD like to write to a Chelsea supporter with a view to attending matches together. I would also like to write to supporters of other Second Division teams. Lee Kaufman, 375 Church Street, Edmonton, London N9 9HY.

I'M a 14-year-old Aberdeen fan and I'd like to write to anyone of around my age who supports any team. My other hobbies include badminton, tennis and listening to pop music. Susan Paterson, 46 Rodger Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

I'M a 13-year-old Spurs and Glenn Hoddle fanatic and would like to correspond with someone aged between 13 and 15 from anywhere in the world. Sharon Russ, 180 Runley Road, Luton, Beds LU1 1UB.

I WOULD like a penfriend anywhere in the UK. I support Sunderland and Aston Villa. I like Wham!, Culture Club and Duran Duran. Angela Howard (12), 16 Roker Park Road, Roker, Sunderland, Tyne-and-Wear SR6 9PF.

MY hobby is collecting football programmes. I would like to write to anyone who supports either Stoke or Leicester. P. Atkins, 12 Hillcrest Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 6EG.

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NAME _____ TEL NO _____
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AS Wales prepare to take on England in the British Championship next Wednesday, 'Match' takes a look back through the pages of the programmes featuring four clashes of days gone by.

SUNDERLAND'S Leighton James is Wales' Wembley record-breaker. It was the winger, then playing for Derby, who gave the Welsh their first ever victory at the famous stadium — once England's fortress in the 1977 British Championship.

His penalty, just before half-time, was enough to give his country a 1-0 win and their first victory over England in 42 internationals.

Leighton was brought down by Peter Shilton after a mistake by England skipper Emlyn Hughes had put him in the clear. After the foul, he picked himself up and gleefully sent the Stoke keeper the wrong way with a perfect spot-kick.

The game wasn't without its controversy, because the home team were convinced they should have been awarded a spot-kick when Everton goalkeeper Dai Davies appeared to do the same to Manchester United striker Stuart Pearson in the 58th minute.

Despite howls of protest from the 48,000 crowd, the referee waved play on and the Welsh goal was never threatened again.

While that record-breaking victory was a drab affair, the same can't be said of every clash between the old rivals.

Back in the 1960-61 season the English were in free-scoring mood. Before their game against Wales, they had already beaten Scotland 9-3 and Northern Ireland 5-2.

So it was with trepidation that the Welsh arrived at Wembley and their fears were justified as they were thrashed 5-1 to give England their biggest win over Wales for 31 years.

Jimmy Greaves scored twice in the second and 70th minutes and he was joined on the scoresheet by Spurs team-mate Bobby Smith, Johnny Haynes and Bobby Charlton.

Former Manchester United ace Bobby Charlton has a special reason to remember his country's game against Wales in October 1963 at Cardiff because he created a new scoring record for England.

His effort in the 81st minute gave him his 31st international goal and beat the record he had shared with Tom Finney and Nat Lofthouse.

SPOT ON, LEIGHTON!

JAMES PENALTY SPELLS WEMBLEY WOE FOR ENGLAND

England won the game 4-0 and the other goalscorers were once again Spurs duo Bobby Smith (2) and Jimmy Greaves.

Wales' crushing 4-1 win over England in the 1979-80 season is still fairly fresh in the memory, but you have to go back 25 years to October 1955 to find their previous victory on Welsh soil.

There was a capacity 80,000 crowd at Ninian Park, Cardiff, to see the home side notch up their first victory over England in 17 years.

England should really have been two goals up before the Welsh got into the act because Tom Finney had spurned two marvellous opportunities. The Welsh made them pay in the 38th minute when Arsenal reserve Derek Tapscott slammed a shot into the roof of the net.

Just a minute later the English were kicking off again following a glancing header from Swansea Town striker Cliff Jones.

A mistake by big John Charles in the 51st minute let England back into the game. He mistimed Johnny Byrne's shut-cum-centre to send the ball rocketing past his own goalkeeper.

The loss of injured Roy Paul put tremendous pressure on the Welsh defence but they managed to hold onto their lead and finish with a fine victory.



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Saturday, April 28

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 Liverpool v Ipswich
 Luton v Watford
 Man. Utd v West Ham
 Norwich v Everton
 Nott'm Forest v Stoke
 QPR v Tottenham
 Southampton v Coventry
 Sunderland v Birmingham
 Wolves v West Brom

DIVISION TWO

Brighton v Barnsley
 Cambridge v Newcastle
 Carlisle v Grimsby
 Charlton v Shrewsbury
 Chelsea v Leeds
 Derby v Man. City
 Huddersfield v Cardiff
 Oldham v Portsmouth
 Sheff. Wed. v C. Palace

DIVISION THREE

Bolton v Bournemouth
 Bradford v Brentford
 Bristol Rovers v Lincoln
 Exeter v Preston
 Newport v Oxford
 Orient v Hull
 Port Vale v Burnley
 Rotherham v Gillingham
 Southend v Sheff. Utd
 Walsall v Wigan
 Wimbledon v Plymouth

DIVISION FOUR

Blackpool v Noreford
 Chester v Doncaster
 Chesterfield v Bristol C.
 Colchester v Torquay
 Crewe v Tranmere
 Darlington v Halifax
 Northampton v Wrexham
 Reading v Bury
 Rochdale v Aldershot
 York v Hartlepool

SCOTTISH

PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic v Hibernian
 Dundee v Aberdeen
 Hearts v St Johnstone
 Motherwell v Dundee Utd
 St Mirren v Rangers

FIRST DIVISION

Ayr v Falkirk
 Clydebank v Morton
 Dumbarton v Clyde
 Kilmarnock v Alloa
 Meadowbank v Airdrie
 Partick v Brechin
 Raith v Harehill

Sunday, April 29

DIVISION TWO

Blackburn v Fulham

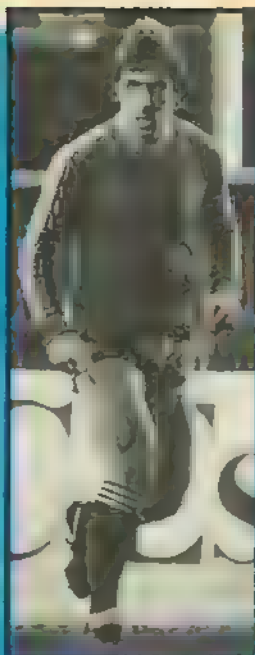
DIVISION FOUR

Swindon v Mansfield

Fergie plans ahead

ABERDEEN manager Alex Ferguson has virtually resigned to starting next season without international striker Mark McGhee.

Under contract to Celtic, McGhee is expected to leave the Glasgow club in the summer. Ferguson, who has been in charge of Aberdeen since 1984, is expected to start next season with a squad of 20 players. McGhee, who has been in the Scotland squad since 1984, is expected to be a key player. Ferguson is expected to start next season with a squad of 20 players. McGhee, who has been in the Scotland squad since 1984, is expected to be a key player. Ferguson is expected to start next season with a squad of 20 players. McGhee, who has been in the Scotland squad since 1984, is expected to be a key player.



ROBERT WATT'S

Scottish Scene

And when McGhee and Billy Smith, who have been in the Scotland squad since 1984, are expected to be a key player. Ferguson is expected to start next season with a squad of 20 players. McGhee, who has been in the Scotland squad since 1984, is expected to be a key player. Ferguson is expected to start next season with a squad of 20 players. McGhee, who has been in the Scotland squad since 1984, is expected to be a key player.

Irvine gets Greek offer

HIBERNIAN goal ace Willie Irvine is the target of Greek side AEK Athens as they begin to rebuild their squad for next season.

Willie, whose contract with Hibs expires in June, has been approached and offered a car and luxury apartment in addition to an attractive salary, but he is not expected to make any decision about his future until manager Pat Stanton spells out Hibs' terms for a new contract.

And the 27-year-old striker will doubtless be all too aware of the problems encountered by Football League players Trevor Ross and Tommy Langley and manager John Barnwell when they sampled the Greek scene.

● **MAKE** a note of the name of 13-year-old Stephen Nicholas. The younger brother of Arsenal's Charlie was outstanding in the warm-up match prior to the Dundee United v AS Roma European Cup tie and he is expected to put pen to paper for the Tannadice outfit.

■ **CELTIC** are to visit Northern Ireland to meet Cliftonville at Solitude on August 14. Said Cliftonville chairman Bert Finlay, "This will be a great attraction. I will be very surprised if we don't pull in a 20,000 capacity crowd."

NICHOLL HOPES FOR RETURN TO RANGERS

FULL-BACK Jimmy Nicholl could be back with Rangers next September. The Northern Ireland international rejoined Toronto Blizzard earlier this week after spending six months on loan at Ibrox.

But there is a distinct possibility he could be playing for the 'Light Blues' once more when the NASL season ends. "I have enjoyed my spell here and would be delighted to return to Rangers in September," says Jimmy.

"I don't want to give my long-term future too much thought but I got a big kick out of helping Rangers win the League Cup this season and the chance of a little more of the same would be great."

"My main fear is that with money becoming very tight in the NASL, Toronto will be asking for too much in the way of a transfer fee. But I'll cross that bridge when I come to it."

Rangers manager Jock Wallace has made no attempt to hide his delight at the 27-year-old player's form at Ibrox and the prospect of Jimmy returning has already been mentioned in a Transatlantic phone call to Toronto manager Bob Houghton.

But for the moment, Jimmy's only concern is to get down to business in Canada.

Says Jimmy: "Bob Houghton has a fairly useful squad together and everyone at the club is hopeful about our prospects for the season ahead."

"While I was playing my last couple of games for Rangers, Blizzard were building up to the big kick-off with games in Florida and Italy and I hear things look very promising."

MATCH FACTS MATCH FACTS

Monday, April 16 Division Three

BOLTON (1) 2 (Chandler pen 38 Bell 68)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Tynan, pen 58)
Att 3 226
Bolton: Farnworth 6. ★**BORROWS** 9
Daakin 7, Joyce 7, McElhinney 6, Valentine 6
Thompson 6, Chandler 7, Caldwell 8
Whatmore 8, Be 7
Plymouth: ★**CRUDGINGTON** 8, Nisbet 5
Uzzell 6, Harrison 6, Smith, L 6, Cooper 5
Hodges 6, Phillips 6, Tynan 6, Stenforth 5
(sub Chamberlain) Rogers 7
Referee: K. Redfern (Whitley Bay)
Match Rating: ★★

SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Whymark 37, Shepherd 81)
BRADFORD (1) 1 (Gray 43)
Att 2,035
Southend: Pritchard 8, Stead 8, Collins 7
Phillips 6, May 7, Moody 7, Whymark 7
★**KELLOCK** 9, Shepherd 7, Fucillo 8
Rogers 6
Bradford: ★**McMANUS** 8, Abbott 7, Withe 6, McCall 7, Jackson 7, Cherry 8, Ha re 7
Hawley 7, Campbell 7, Gray 7, Ellis 7
Referee: A. N. Bukhs (London)
Match Rating: ★★

Tuesday, April 17 Division One

COVENTRY (1) 2 (Ferguson 8, Platnauer 79)
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (0) 1 (Walsh 85)
Att 9,818
Coventry: Suckling 6, Butterworth 7, Adams 8, Daly 7, Alaridye 6, Jacobs 8, Grimes 6
★**PLATNAUER** 9, Ferguson 7, Gibson 6
(sub Gynn), Bennett 6
Not't'm Forest: Van Breukelen 6, Anderson 7, Swan 7, Fairclough 7, Hart 6, ★**BOWYER** 8, Wigley 7, Mills 6, Davenport 6, Hodge 6
Walsh 7
Referee: A. Ward (London)
Match Rating: ★★

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 3 (Armstrong 46, 79, Moran 80)
EVERTON (0) 1 (Richardson 56)
Att 16,978
Southampton: Shilton 6, Mills 6 (sub Curtis 6), Dennis 7, Golac 7, Wright 7, Agboola 6, Holmes 7, Moran 6, Worthngton 6
★**ARMSTRONG** 8, Wallace 7
Everton: Southal 7, Stevens 7, Harper 7
★**RATCLIFFE** 8, Mountie 6, Reid 7, Curran 6, Heath 6, Gray 7, Steven 7
Richardson 7
Referee: C. Downey (Hounslow)
Match Rating: ★★

WATFORD (0) 0
MANCHESTER UNITED (0) 0
Att 20,764
Watford: Sherwood 6, Bardsley 7, Price 7, Taylor 7, ★**SINNOTT** 9, Rostron 7, Callaghan 5, Johnston 5, Gulligan 6, Barnes 8, Sterling 8
Man Utd: Ba ley 6, Duxbury 6, Alb ston 6, W. kins 5, Moran 7, ★**HOGG** 8, Davies 5, McGrath 6, Stapleton 5, Whiteside 6, Graham 6
Referee: K. Barratt (Coventry)
Match Rating: ★★

WEST HAM (2) 3 (Cottee 23, 81, Martin 38)
LUTON (0) 1 (Walsh 65)
Att 15,430
West Ham: Parkes 7, Stewart 7, Watford 7, Bonds 7, Martin 8, Barnes 7, Allen 7
★**COTTEE** 9, Swindlehurst 7, Brooking 8, Pike 7
Luton: Sealey 6, Stevens 5, Thomas 7, Horton 7, ★**ELLIOTT** 8, Donaghy 7, Parker 6, Stein 8, Walsh 6, Bunn 7 (sub Goodyear) Moss 6
Referee: D. Reeves (Uxbridge)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Two

CARDIFF (0) 0
CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 2 (Smith 42, Cummins 56)
Att 4,901
Cardiff: Dibble 6, Elsey 6, Grant 6, Dwyer 6, Smith 5 (sub Goldsmith), ★**TONG** 7, Owen 6, Gibbins 6, Vaughan 5, Hemmerman 5, Lee 6
Crystal Palace: Wood 6, Locke 6, Hughton 6, ★**NICHOLAS** 8, Cannon 6, Gilbert 6, Cummins 7, Stebbing 6, McCulloch 6, Lacy 6, Haire 7
Referee: L. Robinson (Sutton Coldfield)
Match Rating: ★★

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William Baynam

EDITOR

Division Three

HULL (0) 0
GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Att 9,179
Hull: Norman 6, McNeil 7, Hol d eld 6 (sub Flounders 7), McEwan 5, ★**SKIPPER** 8
Swann 6, Taylor 6, McC aren 6, Whitehurst 7, Roberts, D 5, Askew 7
Gillingham: Fry 7, Sison 5, Sage 4, Weatherly 6, Johnson 7, ★**SHAW** 8
Handford 7, Clarke 6, Leslie 6 (sub Musker 6), Mehmet 6, Cascarino 5
Referee: N. Midgley (Salford)
Match Rating: ★★

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Simmons 24)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
Att 3,937
Rotherham: Mimms 6, Forrest 7, Crosby 7, Trusson 7, Johnson 6, Pickering 7, Birch 6
★**SIMMONS** 8, Dungworth 6, Rhodes 7, K. Moore 6 (sub Mitche 1)
Bournemouth: ★**LEIGH** 8, Nightingale 7, Sulley 6, Williams 6 (sub Graham 7), Brown 7, Brignull 6, O'Driscoll 6, Savage 7, Rafferty 6, Beck 6, Thompson 7
Referee: T. Holbrook (Wolverhampton)
Match Rating: ★★

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Bell 47)
PORT VALE (1) 1 (Sproson 39)
Att 2,952
Scunthorpe: Neenan 6, Longden 6
★**POINTON** 7, Lester 5, Green 5, Pratley 6, Brody 5, Cammack 6, Bell 6, Whitehead 6, Graham 6
Port Vale: Siddall 7, Poitard 6, ★**BROMAGE** 8, Hunter 5, Sproson 7, Cegielski 6, Gore 7, Young 5, Bright 7, Fox 5, Armstrong 5
Referee: M. D. Mablebee (Stevenage)
Match Rating: ★★

WIGAN (0) 0
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0
Att 2,665
Wigan: Tunks 6, Cribble 6, Bailey 6, ★**KELLY** 8, Walsh 6, Methven 7, Langley 6, Barrow 6, Johnson 5, Lowe 7, Butler 6
Bristol Rovers: Cashley 6, Slatter 6, Bate 6, Williams 6, Hughes 6, McCaffery 6, Holloway 6, ★**BARRETT** 8, White 6, Stephens 6, Williams 8, 6
Referee: J. Key (Rotherham)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Four

BRISTOL CITY (2) 2 (Hirst 29, Pritchard 32)
CREWE (0) 1 (Leonard 61)
Att 8,139
Bristol City: Shaw 6, Stevens 7, Newman 6
★**HIRST** 8, Phillipson 6, Masters 6, Stroud 7, Pritchard 7, Ritchie 6, Riley 6, Morgan 6, Crawford 6
Crewe: Naylor 7, Davis 6, Edwards 6, King 6, Scott 7, Hart 6, ★**CLISS** 8, Bishop 7, Waller 6, Leonard 6 (sub Thomas) Williams 6
Referee: F. Scales (Ware)
Match Rating: ★★

ROCHDALE (0) 0
COLCHESTER (0) 0
Att 1,020
Rochdale: ★**CONROY** 8, Oates 6, Chapman 7, Reid 7, McMahon 6, Doyle 6, Thompson, D 6, Hamilton 5, Thompson, S 6, Allatt 5, Griffiths 6
Colchester: Chamberlain 6, Coleman 6, Phillips 6, Hadley 6, Wignall 7, Houston 6, Groves 7, Osborne 6, Bowen 6, ★**ADCOCK** 8, Hu 16
Referee: P. Willis (Meadowfield)
Match Rating: ★★
Sending Off: Allatt (Rochdale)

SWINDON (1) 1 (Barnard 45)
DARLINGTON (0) 0
Att 1,681
Swindon: Endersby 7, ★**BAILIE** 8, Henry 7, Baily 5, Gibson 6, Graham 7, Barnard 6, Emmanuel 5, Quinn 6, Maves 5, Nelson 7, Darlington: Barber 7, Craggs 6, Johnson 7, Gilbert 6, Forster 7, ★**LLOYD** 8, Cartwright 6, Todd 6, Hannah 5 (sub Honour 6), Angus 7, McLean 6
Referee: L. Shapter (Torquay)
Match Rating: ★★

Associate Members' Cup, North Zone, Semi-Final

TRANMERE (0) 2 (Hilditch 94, Phillips 99)
BURNLEY (0) 0
After Extra Time
Att 3,968
Tranmere: Davies 7, Munga 18, Burgess 6, Phillips 7, Williams 6, P. Jones 7, Powell 6, Higgins 7, ★**HILDITCH** 9, Hutchinson 7, McMahon 6
Burnley: Hansbury 7, ★**KENNEDY** 8, Donachie 6, Pheasant 6, Overson 6, Flynn 6, Daley 7, Scott 6, Hamilton 7, Higgins 6, H. Ichison 6
Referee: J. D. Hough (Macclesfield)
Match Rating: ★★

SCOTTISH Second Division

QUEEN S PARK (0) 1 (McKay 81)
DUNFERMLINE (2) 2 (McCarthy 7, Stewart 42)
Att 330

Wednesday, April 18 Division One

LEICESTER (2) 3 (Peake 29, Lynex 43, Lineker 75)
LIVERPOOL (1) 3 (Whelan 16, Rush 57, Wark 80)
Att 27,280
Leicester: Walington 6, Smith, B 7, Wilson 6, Williams 5, O'Neill 5 (sub Banks 6), MacDonald 7, Lynex 6, Lineker 6, Smith, A 6, Ramsey 7, ★**PEAKE** 8
Liverpool: Grobbelaar 6, Neal 7, Kennedy 6, Lawrenson 6, Whelan 6, Hansen 5, Dalglish 6, Lee 7, Rush 7, ★**WARK** 8, Souness 6
Referee: C. Downey (Hounslow)
Match Rating: ★★

TOTTENHAM (2) 2 (Mabbutt 37, Roberts, pen 45)
ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Walters 34)
Att 18,668
Spurs: Parks 7, Thomas 7, Hughton 7, ★**ROBERTS** 9, Miller 7, Perryman 8, Hazard 7 (sub Stevens 7), Archibald 7, Falco 7, Mabbutt 8, Gahin 6
Aston Villa: Day 7, Williams 7, Gibson 7, Evans 7, ★**FOSTER** 8, Morimer 7, Birch 6, Blair 7, Withe 6, McMahon 7, Walters 6
Referee: L. Shapter (Torquay)
Match Rating: ★★

PLAYER RATINGS

- 10 Out of this world
- 9 Outstanding
- 8 Excellent
- 7 Good
- 6 Adequate
- 5 Off form
- 4 Poor

MATCH RATINGS

- ★★★★★ A classic
- ★★★★★ Good value
- ★★★★ Satisfactory
- ★★★ Dull
- ★ A waste of money

Division Three

MILLWALL (1) 4 (Neal D 16, 65, Bremner 65, 82)
SOUTHEND (0) 0
Att 3,345
Millwall: Sansome 7, Stevens 7, Stride 7, Lovell 8, Nutton 7, Cusack 8, McLeary 7 (sub Neal J 5), Bremner 8, Otulakowski 8
★**NEAL** D 9, Robinson 7
Southend: Pritchard 6, Stead 6, Collins 6, Phillips 6, May 7, Moody 6, Whymark 7, Kellock 6, ★**SHEPHERD** 8, Fucillo 7, Rogers 6
Referee: E. Read (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Four

CHESTER (1) 1 (Brett 6)
YORK (1) 1 (Hood 3, Att 1,750)
Chester: Harrington 7, Bulmer 7, Lane 7, Elliott 6, Williams 6, ★**HOLDEN** 8, Brett 6, Sanderson 6, Allen 6, Coy 6, Blackwell 7, York: Jones 6, Evans 7, Hay 7, Sbragia 7, ★**MacPHAIL** 8, Hood 7, Ford 6, Haslegrave 6, Wain 6, Byrne 7, Pearce 6
Referee: N. Wilson (Morecambe)
Match Rating: ★★

UEFA Under-21 Championship Semi-Final, First Leg

ENGLAND (2) 3 (Chamberlain 5, D'Avray 40, Sterland, pen 72)
ITALY (0) 1 (Renica 80)
Att 3,496 (at Maine Road, Manchester)
England: Hucker, Sterland, Pickering, Bracewell, Watson, Cator, Chamberlain, Gayle, D'Avray, Robson, Brock, Italy: Rampulla, Bergomi, Ferri, Righetti, Pin, Gal, a Pari, Battistin, Mancini, Dossena, Monelli

International Friendly

FRANCE 1 (Gengh n)
WEST GERMANY 0

MATCH FACTS MATCH FACTS

SCOTTISH Premier Division

ABERDEEN (3) 5 (Rougvie 10, 67, McGhee 27, 37, Black 62)

DUNDEE UNITED (1) 1 (Reilly 34)

Att: 20,000
Aberdeen: Leighton 7, Mitchell 7, Rougvie 8, Simpson 6, McLeish 8. **MILLER** 9
Strachan 8, Black 8, McGhee 7, Bell 6, Angus 7 (sub Weir 7)
Dundee: Utd McAlpine 6, Stark 6, Malpas 5, Gough 7, Hegarty 6, Narey 6. **BANNON** 8, Kirkwood 6, Reilly 7, Coyne 5 (sub Clark 6), Dodds 6

Referee: H. Young (Larkhall)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

DUNDEE (0) 1 (McGlashan 89)

MOTHERWELL (0) 0

Att: 4,194
Dundee: Geddes 7, McNally 6, Fraser 7, Smith 7, Glennie 6, Mackie 6.
★**RICHARDSON** 8, Harris 6, Kidd 7, McCall 6, Stephen 6 (sub McGlashan 7)
Motherwell: Sproat 6, MacLeod 7, Black 6 (sub Dornan 7), Kennedy 6, Forbes 7, Boyd 6.
★**GAHAGAN** 8, Wishart 7, Alexander 6, Lyall 7, Harrow 6
Referee: R. Cuthill (Winchburgh)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

ST MIRREN (2) 2 (Scanlon 3, 32)

CELTIC (1) 4 (Burns 31, McCall 75, 82, Sinclair 76)

Att: 13,250
St Mirren: Thomson 7, Clarke 6, Hamilton 6, McCormack 6, Cooper 7, McGregor 6, Fitzpatrick 6, McAviney 7, McDougall 6, Abercromby 7. **★SCANLON** 8
Celtic: Bonner 7, McGrain 7, Reid 6, McStay 7, McAdam 6, Sinclair 7, Provan 7, McStay 7, McRose 6 (sub ★**McCLAIR** 8), Burns 7, McGarvey 6
Referee: A. Hewitt (Edinburgh)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

Friday, April 20 Division Two

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Fazackerley pen 48)

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Trewick 75)

Att: 19,196
Blackburn: O'Keefe 6, Glenn 6, Branagan 7, Barker 8. **★KEELEY** 9, Fazackerley 7, Brotherton 6, Lowey 6, Thompson 5, Garner 7, Patterson 8 (sub Miller)
Newcastle: Carr 5, Anderson 6, Wharton 7, McCreery 6, Carney 7, Roeder 7, Keegan 7. **★BEARDSLEY** 8, Waddle 7, McDermott 7, Trewick 7 (sub Haddock)
Referee: J. Key (Rotherham)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

CARLISLE (1) 1 (D'Riordan 29)

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Mowbray 69)

Att: 5,874
Carlisle: McKellar 7, Haigh 6, Parker 6, Ashurst 7, O'Riordan 7, McCartney 6.
★**BUCKLEY** 8, Hill 7, Dixon 6 (sub Coughlin 6), Craig 7, Shoulder 7
Middlesbrough: O'Hanlon 7, Wood 7, ★**MOWBRAY** 8, Ward 6, Baxter 6, Natrass 7, Hamilton 6 (sub Crawford), Kennedy 7, Otto 6, Sugrue 7, Currie 7
Referee: R. Nixon (West Kirby)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

OLDHAM (1) 2 (Palmer 23, Quinn 62)

MANCHESTER CITY (1) 2 (McCarthy 32, Bond pen 78)

Att: 20,320
Oldham: Wealands 6, Sinclair 6, Buchan 7, Henry 6. **★CLEMENTS** 9, Hooickun 7, Ward 6, Colville 6, Quinn 7, Palmer 8, McBride 7
Man City: Williams 6, Lomax 6 (sub Tolmie 6). **★WILSON** 8, Bond 7, May 6, McCarthy 7, Smith 6, Baker 6, Parlano 6, Kinsey 7, Johnson 6
Referee: T. Mills (Barnsley)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

Division Three

BRENTFORD (1) 3 (Joseph 15, Booker 55, Finney 63)

EXETER (0) 0

Att: 5,620
Brentford: Roche 6, Fisher 6, Roffey 7, Roberts 6, Gray 6, Hurlock 6, Kamara 6, Finney 7. **★JOSEPH** 8, Booker 6, Roberts 6, 6
Exeter: ★**BOND** 7, Kirkup 6, Viney 5, O'Connor 6, Webster 5, Atkinson 5, Nevill 6 (sub Harrower 5), Sims 6, Marker 5, Francis 6, McDonough 5
Referee: J. Ashworth (Oakham)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

OXFORD (4) 5 (Hebbard 10, Briggs 22, McElhinney, og 40, Biggins 44, Aldridge 83)

BOLTON (0) 0

Att: 9,788
Oxford: Hardwick 6, Hinshelwood 5, McDonald 7, Brock 7 (sub Phillips) Briggs 6, Shotton 7, Jones 6. **★BIGGINS** 8, Aldridge 6, Hebbard 7, Rhoades Brown 7
Bolton: Farnworth 5, Borrowes 5, Deakin 5, Joyce 5 (sub Berry 5), McElhinney 5.
★**VALENTINE** 6, Thompson 5, Chandler 5, Foster 5, Caldwell 5, Bell 5
Referee: A. Gunn (Burgess Hill)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

PLYMOUTH (0) 0

NEWPORT (0) 1 (Green 86)

Att: 7,654
Plymouth: Cradgington 7, Nisbet 7, Uzzell 6, Harrison 5, Smith, L. S., Cooper 6, Hodges 5, Phillips 6, Tynan 7. **★STANFORTH** 8, Rogers 7
Newport: Kendall 7, Jones 7. **★RELISH** 8, Reid 6, Oakes 7, Boyle 7, Lylgreen 5 (sub Green 7), Mathewson 7, Carter 6, Randall 6, Williams 6
Referee: T. Holbrook (Wolverhampton)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

SOUTHEND (2) 3 (Fuccillo 23, Shepherd 44, Gymer 71)

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Sage 83)

Att: 3,218
Southend: Pritchard 8, Stead 8, Pennyfather 7, Phillips 7, May 6, Moody 6, Whyman 6 (sub Gymer 7). **★KELLOCK** 9, Shepherd 7, Fuccillo 7, Rogers 6
Gillingham: Fry 8, Sittin 6, Sage 6. **★BRUCE** 9, Johnson 6, Shaw 7, Cochrane 8, Clarke 6, Weatherly 7, Mehmet 8, Cascarno 6 (sub Musker 6)
Referee: D. Reeves (Uxbridge)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

Division Four

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Stonehouse 64)

Att: 1,817
Hartlepool: Blackburn 6, Robinson, D. G., Smithes 6, Hogan 7, Linigan, A. 7. **★BIRD** 8, Kennedy 6, Lowe 6, Linacre, P. 6 (sub Northwick 6), Dobson 7, Taylor 7
Blackpool: Pierce 6, Moore 6, Ferns 6, ★**RODAWAY** 7, Walsh 6, Greenall 6, Britton 5, Walker 5, Stewart 5, Hetzke 6, Stonehouse 6
Referee: D. Hutchinson (Harrogate)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

WREXHAM (0) 0

SWINDON (2) 3 (Gibson 12, Mayes, pen 41, Emmanue, 86)

Att: 1,442
Wrexham: ★**SINCLAIR** 8, King 6, Cunningham 6, Hunt 5, Heath 5, Muldoon 6, Keay 5, Gregory 7, Salathiel 6, Wright 5, Suxton 6
Swindon: Endersby 7, Baile 7, Henry 7, Barry 7. **★GIBSON** 8, Graham 7, Barnard 7, Emmanuel 7, Quinn 7, Mayes 7 (sub Hockaday 7), Nelson 7
Referee: D. Scott (Burnley)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

YORK (3) 4 (Byrne 11, 35, 73, Walwyn 28)

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Mell 69)

Att: 7,123
York: Jones 6, Evans 6, Hay 6, Sbragia 6, MacPhail 7, Hood 6, Ford 7, Haslegrave 6 (sub. Houchen), Walwyn 8. **★BYRNE** 9, Pollard 7
Halifax: Smelt 5, Evans 4, Wood 5, Kendall 4, Smith 5, Hendrie 6, Nobbs 6, Little 5, Gallagher 7. **★MELL** 8, Ward 6
Referee: M. Scott (Nottingham)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

Saturday, April 21 Division One

ARSENAL (1) 3 (Robson 41, Nicholas 77, Woodcock 83)

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 (Archibald 78, 84)

Att: 48,831
Arsenal: Lukic 6, Hill 5, Sansom 5, Talbot 6, O'Leary 6, Caton 6, Robson 7. **★NICHOLAS** 9, Mariner 8, Woodcock 8, Rex 8 (sub Davis) Spurs: Parks 7, Thomas 5, Hughton 6, Roberts 6, Miller 5, Perryman 6, Mabbott 6. **★ARCHIBALD** 8, Galvin 7, Crook 5 (sub Stevens 6), Crooks 7
Referee: J. Hunting (Leicester)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Mortimer 2, Foster 58)

WATFORD (1) 1 (Sterling 5)

Att: 16,110
Aston Villa: Day 8, Williams 6, Gibson 6, Evans 7. **★FOSTER** 8, Mortimer 7, Blair 6, 8, ch 6, Withe 7, McMahon 6, Walters 7
Watford: Sherwood 6, Bardsley 6.
★**ROSTRON** 8, Taylor 6, Reilly 6, Sinnott 6, Sterling 7, Johnston 6, Gulligan 6 (sub Price 6), Barnes 7, Atkinson 6
Referee: I. Hendrick (Preston)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

LIVERPOOL (3) 3 (McNaught, og 20, Souness 25, Daiglish 29)

WEST BROM (0) 0

Att: 35,320
Liverpool: Grobbelaar 6, Neal 7, Kennedy 7, Lawrenson 6, Whelan 7, Hansen 6. **★DALGLISH** 8, Lee 6, Rush 6, Wark 6, Souness 7
West Brom: Barron 6, Whitehead 5, Statham 6, Hunt 5, McNaught 5, Bennett 6, Grealish 6, Thompson 4, Regis 6. **★MACKENZIE** 7, Morley 5
Referee: K. Redfern (Whitley Bay)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

LUTON (0) 3 (Moss 69, Horton, pen 79, Bunn 89)

NOTT'S COUNTY (0) 2 (Christie 68, Chiedozie 85)

Att: 8,776
Luton: Sealey 6, Stephens 6, Thomas 7, Horton 5, Elliott 6, Goodyear 6. **★PARKER** 8, Stern 8, Walsh 6, Bunn 7, Moss 7 (sub Antic)
Notts County: ★**LEONARD** 8, Hodson 6, Clarke 6, Richards 6, Armstrong 5, Hunt 6, O'Neill 6, Christie 7 (sub Harkouk), McParland 6, Mair 6, Chiedozie 6
Referee: J. Martin (Aldon)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 4 (Hughes 41, 77, McGrath 52, Wilkins 60)

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Daly 73)

Att: 38,524
Man Utd: Bailey 6, Duxbury 7, Albiston 6. **★WILKINS** 9 (sub Whiteside), Moran 6, Hogg 6, McGrath 8, Moses 7, Stapleton 6, Hughes 8, Graham 6
Coventry: Suckling 7, Butterworth 6, Adams 6 (sub Gibson), Daly 6. **★ALLARDYCE** 8, Jacobs 6, Bennett 6, Grimes 7, Ferguson 6, Gynn 6, Platnauer 6
Referee: D. Hutchinson (Harrogate) replaced by D. R. Marrell (Nantwich)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

NORWICH (0) 2 (Rosario 54, Deehan 71)

STOKE (1) 2 (McIlroy 5, Chamberlain 70)

Att: 16,084
Norwich: Woods 7, Devine 8, Downs 7, Mendham 7, Hareide 7 (sub Haylock), Watson 7, Rosario 8, Channon 7.
★**DEEHAN** 9, Van Wyk 7, Donowa 7, Stoke: Fox 7, Bould 7, Hampton 7, James 8, Dyson 7, Hemmings 7, Painter 8, McIlroy 8, Russell 7. **★HUDSON** 9, Chamberlain 7
Referee: A. Buksh (London)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (2) 5 (Davenport 2, 89, Walsh 5, Wallace 66, Bowyer 70)

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Harford 88)

Att: 15,323
Nott'm Forest: Van Breukelen 6, Anderson 6, Gunn 6, Fairclough 7, Hart 7, Bowyer 6. **★WIGLEY** 9, Wallace 8, Davenport 8, Thijssen 7 (sub Mills), Walsh 7
Birmingham: Coton 5, Roberts 5, Van den Hauwe 6, Blake 4, Wright 5, Kuhl 6, Gayle 5, Stevenson 6. **★HARFORD** 8, McCarrick 5 (sub Broadhurst 6), Hagan 6
Referee: J. Moules (Ongar)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

QPR (1) 2 (Allen 24, Fereday 46)

LEICESTER (0) 0

Att: 12,360
QPR: Hucker 6, Neill 6, Dawes 5, Fereday 6, Wicks 6, Fenwick 5, Mickelwhite 8, Filley 6. **★ALLEN** 7, Stainrod 6, Gregory 6 (sub Burke)
Leicester: ★**WALLINGTON** 7, Smith, B. G., Wilson 6, MacDonald 6, Williams 6, Rennie 6, Lynex 6, Luneker 6, Smith, A. G. (sub Banks 6), Ramsey 6, Peake 6
Referee: M. Taylor (Deal)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Holmes 34, Moran 76)

WEST HAM (0) 0

Att: 20,846
Southampton: Shilton 6. **★MILLS** 9, Gotch 7, Curtis 8, Whitlock 7, Wright 7, Holmes 7, Moran 7, Worthington 7, Armstrong 7, Wallace 7

West Ham: Parkes 7, Stewart 7, Walford 6, Bonds 6, Martin 7, Barnes 7 (sub Hilton), Allen 6, Cottle 5, Swindlehurst 5.

★**BROOKING** 8, Pike 7

Referee: C. Thomas (Porthcawl)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Robson 15, West 66)

EVERTON (1) 1 (Heath 44)

Att: 15,876
Sunderland: Turner 7, Venison 7, Pickering 6, Atkins 7, Hindmarch 7, Elliott 6, Bracewell 8. **★ROBSON** 9, West 7, Proctor 7, James 8, Everton: Southall 6, Stevens 7, Bailey 7. **★RATCLIFFE** 8, Mountfield 7, Reid 6 (sub Harper), Curran 6, Heath 7, Sharp 6, Steven 7, Richardson 7
Referee: M. Peck (Kendal)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

WOLVES (0) 0

IPSWICH (2) 3 (D'Avray 30, Osman 39, Sunderland 89)

Att: 6,611
Wolves: ★**BURRIDGE** 7, Buckland 5, Palmer 5 (sub Rudge 4), Bayly 5, Rodger 5, Dodd 5, Hibbit 4, McGarvey 5, Livingstone 5, Townier 4, Crahan 5
Ipswich: Cooper 6, Putney 6, Barnes 6, Zondervan 7, Osman 6, Cranston 6, Sunderland 7, Brennan 6, D'Avray 7, McCall 6. **★GATES** 8
Referee: R. Guy (Kirkby)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

Division Two

BRIGHTON (2) 3 (Young, A. 8, Connor 41, Young, E. 69)

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1 (Nicholas 51)

Att: 15,214
Brighton: Corrigan 7, O'Regan 7, Hutchings 6, Case 8. **★YOUNG**, E. 9, Gattig 7, Wilson 7, Smilie 6 (sub Ryan 6), Young, A. 8, Connor 7, Penney 8
Crystal Palace: Wood 7, Locke 6, Hughton 6, Stebbing 6 (sub Giles 7), Cannon 7, Gilbert 8. **★CUMMINS** 8, Lacy 6, McCulloch 8, Nicholas 7, Hilaire 7
Referee: D. Lettis (Aldershot)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

CAMBRIDGE (0) 0

BARNSELY (1) 3 (Geddis 41, 48, Ronson 69)

Att: 2,400
Cambridge: Greygoose 6, Clark 6, Donaldson 6. **★SINTON** 8, Moyes 6, Cooke 6, Cooper 6, Spriggs 7, Measures 6 (sub Pyle 6), Lockhart 6, Daniels 7
Barnsley: Rhodes 6, Joyce 6, Law 6, Glavin 7, May 6, Fletcher 7, Ronson 7, McGuire 8, Thomas 6. **★GEDDIS** 8 (sub Arey), Campbell 6
Referee: M. James (Horsham)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

CHARLTON (0) 2 (Lee 47, 51)

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Morgan 39)

Att: 6,328
Charlton: Johns 7, O'Shea 6, Dickenson 6, Smith 5, Downman 6 (sub Jones 7), Berry 7, Robinson 6. **★LEE** 8, Moore 7, Aislewood 7, Flanagan 6
Portsmouth: Knight 6, McLaughlin 7. **★HARDYMAN** 8, Doyle 7, Waldron 7, Money 6, Webb 7, Dillon 5 (sub Thomas), Morgan 6, Tait 6, Wood 7
Referee: K. Cooper (Pontypridd)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

CHELSEA (2) 3 (Dixon 6, 87, Nevin 32)

SHREWSBURY (0) 0

Att: 17,295
Chelsea: Niedzwiecki 6, Lee 5, Jones 5, Pates 6, McLaughlin 5, Bumstead 5. **★NEVIN** 8, Spackman 7, Dixon 6, Speedie 7, Thomas 5, Shrewsbury: ★**OGRIZOVIC** 7, Williams 8, Johnson 5, MacLaren 6, Turner 6, Griffin 5 (sub Robinson 5), McNally 8, Bates 5, Stevens 5, Nardiello 5, Cross 5
Referee: T. Spencer (Salisbury)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

DERBY (1) 1 (Garner 6)

FULHAM (0) 0

Att: 12,178
Derby: Cherry 6, Blades 6, Buckley 8, Gemmill 5, Watson 5, Powell 7, Davine 8, Davison 6, Garner 6 (sub Wilson), Harbey 6. **★ROBERTSON** 8
Fulham: Peyton 6, Parker 6, Carr 6, Scott 7, Hopkins 5, Gale 6, Davies 5, Coney 6, , Rosenor 8, Houghton 6 (sub Marshall 6). **★LEWINGTON** 8
Referee: J. Hough (Macclesfield)
Match Rating: ★★☆☆

MATCHFACTS MATCHFACTS

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2 (Eves 48, Doyle 65)
LEEDS (1) 2 (Wright 42, Barnes 87)
 Att 16,270
 Huddersfield: Mason 7, Laws 7, Burke 6
 Pugh 6, Hanvey 8 (sub: Eastoe), Jones 7
 *EVES 8, Doyle 7, Ellis 7, Wilson 6, Cowing 6
 Leeds: Harvey 6, Irwin 6, Hamson 7
 *WATSON 8, Aspin 7, Dickinson 6, Wright 7, Lorrimer 6, Ritchie 7, Donnelly 6 (sub: McCluskey 6), Barnes 5
 Referee: N. L. Wilson (Morecambe)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (0) 1 (Sterland, pen 75)
GRIMSBY (0) 0
 Att 25,828
 Sheffield Wed: Hodge 7, *STERLAND 9 (sub: Oliver), Shirliff 8, Worthington 7, Lyons 8, Madden 7, Megson 7, Pearson 6, Varad 7, Cunningham 7, Sheaton 8
 Grimsby: Batch 7, Speight 7, Crombie 7, Waters 6 (sub: Moore A 7), *NICHOLL 8, Moore K 7, Ford 7, Wilkinson 7, Lund 6, Bonnyman 7, Elms 6
 Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

SWANSEA (1) 3 (Saunders 28, 86, Walsh 73)
CARDIFF (2) 2 (Smith 17, Owen 27)
 Att 10,275
 Swansea: Hughes 7, Evans 6 (sub: Richards 6), McQuillan 8, Lewis 6, Stevenson 7, Rajkovic 7, *SAUNDERS 8, Robinson 7, Walsh 7, Marutik 7, Pascoe 7
 Cardiff: Dibble 6, Esey 6, Grant 7 (sub: Goldsmith 6), Dwyer 6, Smith 7, Tong 6, Owen 7, *GIBBINS 8, Vaughan 7, Bennett 7, Lee 6
 Referee: B. Stevens (Stonehouse)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

Division Three

BOLTON (0) 0
WIGAN (1) 1 (Johnson 15)
 Att 6,142
 Bolton: Platt 6, *BORROWS 7, Deakin 5, Joyce 5, McElhinney 6, Valentine 8, Thompson 5 (sub: Rudge 5), Chandler 5, Foster 6, Caldwell 6, Bell 5
 Wigan: Tunks 6, Crbley 7, Aspinall 7, *KELLY 8, Walsh 6, Methven 6, Langley 7, Barrow 8, Johnson 7, Lowe 6, Butler 6
 Referee: N. Ashley (Nantwich)
 Match Rating: ★★

BRADFORD (1) 2 (Miller 42, Kennedy 83)
BURNLEY (1) 1 (Beggins 27)
 Att 5,578
 Bradford: McManus 6, Abbott 7, Withe 6, McCall 7, *JACKSON 8, Cherry 7, Harre 6, Hawley 6, Campbell 7, Gray 6, Ellis 6
 Burnley: *HANSBURY 8, Scott 6, Donachie 6 (sub: Tuart 6), Pheon 7, Overson 7, Flynn 7, Kennedy 6, Miller 8, Hamilton 6, Biggins 7, Mulchon 6
 Referee: B. Hill (Kettering)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 1 (Stephens 28)
OXFORD (0) 1 (Aldridge 68)
 Att 6,397
 Bristol Rovers: Cashley 7, Saiter 7, Williams, B 7, Williams, G 6, Hughes 7, McCaffery 7, Holloway 6 (sub: Randall)
 *WILLIAMS, D. B., Stephens 7, White 7, Barrett 7
 Oxford: Hardwick 7, Hinchelwood 7, McDonald 6, Brock 7, Todd 7, *SHOTTON 8, Jones 8, Beggins 6, Vinter 7 (sub: Aldridge 7), Hebbard 7, Phillips 6
 Referee: L. Burden (Poole)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

EXETER (1) 1 (Pratt 9)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Stanforth 60)
 Att 6,870
 Exeter: Crabtree 7, Kirkup 6, Viney 7, O'Connor 7, *WEBSTER 8, Marker 7, Ling 6 (sub: Howarth), Sims 6, Pratt 6, Harrower 6, McDonough 6
 Plymouth: Cradington 6, Nisbet 7, Luzzel 6, Harrison 7, Smith, L 7, *COOPER 8, Hodges 7, Phillips 6, Tynan 6 (sub: Chamberlain 7), Stanforth 7, Rogers 6
 Referee: G. Napthine (Loughborough)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

NEWPORT (1) 2 (Reid 25, Green 51)
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Graham 5)
 Att 2,356
 Newport: Kendall 6, Jones, L 7, Relish 7, Oakes 6, Boyle 7, Reid 7, Randall 6, Matthews 6, Jones, V 6 (sub: Williams 6), *GREEN 8, Carter 7

Bournemouth: Leigh 6, Nightingale 6, Sulley 7, Brown 7, Brignoli 6, O'Driscoll 7, Savage 7, Beck 6, *GRAHAM 8, Rafferty 6, Thompson 7
 Referee: R. Lewis (Great Bookham)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

ORIENT (2) 5 (Cornwell 30, Kitchen 39, 60, 73, 85)
MILLWALL (2) 3 (Osgood, 24, Lovell 37, Neal, 55)
 Att 3,574
 Orient: Key 7, Haies 7, Wilkins 6, Corbett 6, Osgood 5, Cornwell 8, Silkman 7, Brooks 6, Sussex 6, *KITCHEN 9, McNeil 8
 Millwall: Sansone 7, Stevens 6, Stride 6 (sub: Neal J 7), Lovell 6, Nutton 6, Cusack 7, White 7, Bremner 6, *NEAL D. B., Orakowski 7, Robinson 7
 Referee: A. Robinson (Waterlooville)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

PORT VALE (0) 1 (O'Keefe, pen 49)
PRESTON (0) 1 (Houghton 57)
 Att 3,574
 Port Vale: Siddall 7, Pollard 6, Bromage 6, Hunter 5, Sproson 5, Cegielski 5, Gore 6, Young 6 (sub: Fox 6), Bright 7, *O'KEEFE 8, Armstrong 6
 Preston: Litchfield 7, Hinnigan 6, McAteer 7, Jones 6 (sub: Naughton 6), Booth 6, Farrelly 6, Kelly 8, Murphy 6, Elliott 7, *HOUGHTON 8, Houston 6
 Referee: A. Seville (Birmingham)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★
 Sending Off: Booth (Preston)

ROTHERHAM (0) 0
SHEFFIELD UNITED (0) 1 (Atkins 90)
 Att 14,177
 Rotherham: Mimms 6, Forrest 7, Crosby 7, Trusson 7, Johnson 6, *PICKERING 8, Birch 7, Simmons 8, Dungworth 6 (sub: Mitchell), Rhodes 7, Kilmore 6
 Sheffield Utd: Tomlinson 7, Heffernan 6, Bolton 7, Arnott 7, Stanciliffe 7, West 7, Morris 6, *COCKERILL 8, Edwards 6 (sub: Atkins 7), McHale 6, Garner 7
 Referee: N. Midgley (Salford)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Bell, pen 35, Cammack 82)
HULL (0) 0
 Att 8,286
 Scunthorpe: Neenan 6, Longden 6, *POINTON 8, Matthews 7, Green 7, Parkinson 6, Broily 6, Cammack 7, Bell 6, Whitehead 7, Graham 6
 Hull: Norman 6, McNeil 7, Hollifield 6, McEwan 7, Skpper 6, *SWANN 8, Marwood 7, McClaren 6 (sub: Askew 7), Whitehurst 7, Flounders 6, Roberts, G 7
 Referee: T. Fitzharris (Bolton)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

WALSALL (0) 0
LINCOLN (0) 1 (Fashanu 76)
 Att 3,660
 Walsall: Godden 7, Caswell 7, Mower 7, Shakespeare 6, *BRAZIER 9, Hart 8 (sub: Brown 7), Handysides 6, O'Kelly 8, Bamber 6, Preece 6, Childs 6
 Lincoln: *FELGATE 9, Strodder 7, Neale 7, Burke 6, Walker 7, Webb 8, Jack 7, Turner 6, Fashanu 7, Thomas 8, Redfern 7
 Referee: J. Worral (Warrington)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

WIMBLEDON (1) 2 (Ketteridge 1, Hodges 47)
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Joseph 72)
 Att 5,487
 Wimbledon: Beasant 6, Peters 6, Winterburn 7, Galliers 7, Morris 6, Hatter 7, Fishenden 6, *KETTERIDGE 8, Cork 7, Gage 7, Hodges 6 (sub: Dibble)
 Brentford: Roche 6, Fisher 6, Rolley 8, Roberts, P 6, Gray 6, Hurlock 6, Kamara 8, Rowe 7, *JOSEPH 8, Booker 7, Cassells 6 (sub: Roberts, G)
 Referee: R. Milford (Bristol)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

Division Four

BLACKPOOL (0) 0
TRANMERE (0) 1 (Hilditch 75)
 Att 4,055
 Blackpool: Pierce 6, Moore 6, Ferns 6, Rodaway 6, Walsh 5, Greenall 6, Britton 5 (sub: Deary 6), Walker 7, *STEWART 8, Hezke 7, Stonehouse 6
 Tranmere: Davies 7, Mungall 7, *BURGESS 8, Philpotts 7, Williams 7, Patis 6, Powell 6, Higgins 6, Hilditch 7, Hutchinson 7, McMahon 6
 Referee: A. Saunders (Newcastle)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

CHESTER (0) 1 (Sanderson 86)
WREXHAM (0) 0
 Att 3,486
 Chester: Harrington 6, Dixon 6, Lane 6, Holden 7, Zelem 7, Elliott 5 (sub: Brett 7), Allen 5, Sanderson 7, Coy 6, Wharton 6
 *BLACKWELL 9
 Wrexham: Sinclair 6, King 6, Cunningham 6, Hunt 5, *KEAY 8, Muldoon 7, Wright 6, Gregory 6, Salathiel 6, Steel 5, Buxton 5
 Referee: N. Glover (Chorley)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
MANSFIELD (0) 0
 Att 4,364
 Chesterfield: Brown, J 6, Belamy 6, Simpson 7, Kendal 7, Barnes 6, Hunter 6, Brown, P 7, Scrimgeour 6, Walker 5 (sub: Clayton 7), Klug 6, *O'NEILL 8
 Mansfield: Hitchcock 7, Woodhead 6, Whitworth 6, Lowery 7, *AYRE 8, Foster 6, Calderwood 5, Matthews 6, Jureyff 6, Nicholson 7, Barrowclough 7
 Referee: M. Heath (Stoke)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Adcock 26)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Holmes, pen 88)
 Att 1,746
 Colchester: Chamberlain 7, Coleman 6, Phillips 6, Hadley 6, Wignall 7, Farrell 6, Groves 7, *OSBORNE 8, Bowen 6, Adcock 7, Hull 6
 Peterborough: Seaman 7, Chard 6, Holmes 6, Beech 6 (sub: Quow), Slack 7, Firm 6, Pike 6, Tydeman 7, Waddle 6, Kelly 7
 *WORRALL 8
 Referee: M. Dumblebee (Stevenage)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

CREWE (0) 1 (Leonard 57)
HEREFORD (0) 1 (Phillips 60)
 Att 2,139
 Crewe: Naylor 7, Davis 5, Edwards 6, King 6, Scott 7, Hart 7, Chiss 7, *BISHOP 8, Waller 7, Leonard 6, Williams 6 (sub: Thomas)
 Hereford: Rose 7, *PRICE 8, Bray 6, Hicks 6, Pejic 7, Maddy 6, Harvey 7, Dolve 6, Phillips 6, Kearns 6, Butler 7
 Referee: A. Challenor (Rotherham)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Todd 51, McLean 85)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
 Att 2,625
 Darlington: Barber 7, Craggs 8, Johnson 7, Honour 7, Smith 6, *LLOYD 8, Todd 6, Walsh 6 (sub: Hannah), Forster 7, Angus 6, McLean 7
 Hartlepool: Blackburn 7, Robinson 6, Smithies 6, Hogan 6, Linighan, A 7, Bird 7, Kennedy 6 (sub: Linighan, D), Lowe 6, Borlhwack 6, *DOBSON 8, Taylor 6
 Referee: P. Tyldesley (Stockport)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Lewis 30)
DONCASTER (3) 4 (Harle 20, secs. Snodin 6, 16, Dobbin 28, Douglas 87)
 Att 1,912
 Northampton: Gleasure 6, Lewis 6, Munday 5, Gage 5, *BURROWS 8, Tucker 6, Jeffery 5, O'Neill 6, Hayes 7, Austin 5, Muir 7 (sub: Balfon 6)
 Doncaster: Peacock 7, Russell 6, Yates 7, Snodin, I 7, Humphries 6, Philiben 6, Harle 7, *BROWN 9, Douglas 8, Dobbin 7, Snodin 6
 Referee: C. Downey (Hounslow)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

READING (0) 1 (Senior 76)
ALDERSHOT (0) 0
 Att 7,645
 Reading: Judge 7, Williams 7, Richardson 6, Price 6, Hicks 7, *WOOD 8, White 6 (sub: Beavon), Horrix 6, Senior 6, Sanchez 6, Crown 7
 Aldershot: Coves 7, Day 7, Gillard 7, *BRILEY 8, Souter 7, Jopling 7, Berry 6, Banton 6, Lawrence 7, McDonald 7, Mazzon 7
 Referee: M. L. Robinson (Sutton Coldfield)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

ROCHDALE (0) 0
BURY (0) 2 (White 72, Entwistle, pen 75)
 Att 2,027
 Rochdale: Conroy 6, Oates 5, *CHAPMAN 8, Reid 4, McMahon 5, Doyle 6, Humphreys 4 (sub: McCluskie 5), Heaton 4, Thompson 5, Allatt 4, Griffiths 7
 Bury: Brown 6, Gardner 6, Pashley 6, Carrados 6, Bramhall 6, Dobson 7, White 6, Madden 6, Entwistle 7, *JAKUB 8, Buckley 8
 Referee: D. Shaw (Sandbach)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

STOCKPORT (0) 0
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
 Att 2,645
 Stockport: *SALMON 9, Thorpe 7, Rutter 7, Emerson 8, Sword 7, Bowles 6, Williams 6, Evans 6, Kerr 8, Taylor 6, Coyle 7
 Bristol City: Shaw 8, Stevens 6, Newman 7, Halliday 6, Phillips 6, Masters 7, *STROUD 9, Pritchard 7, Ritchie 7, Riley 8, Morgan 6, Hirst 6
 Referee: D. Scott (Burnley)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

SWINDON (1) 2 (Mayes 7, 86)
TORQUAY (1) 3 (Hughes 24, Fowler 48, Barnes, pen 80)
 Att 2,197
 Swindon: Endersby 7, *BAILIE 8, Henry 7, Batty 6, Gibson 6, Graham 7, Barnard 6, Emmanuel 7, Quinn 7, Mayes 7, Nelson 6
 Torquay: Allan 7, Dawkins 7, Anderson 7, Hughes 6, *IMPEY 8, Compton 7, Square 6, Fowler 7, Cooper 6, Barnes 7, Hall 6
 Referee: D. J. Axcell (Southend)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

SCOTTISH Premier Division

DUNDEE UNITED (1) 1 (Clark 44)
DUNDEE (0) 1 (McCall 65)
 Att 13,244
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine 6, Stark 8, *MUNRO 8, Holt 6, Hegarty 6, Naray 6, Bannion 6, Kirkwood 6, Reilly 5, Clark 5 (sub: Milne 5), Dodds 6
 Dundee: Geddes 8, McNally 6, McKinlay 7, Fraser 5, Smith 5 (sub: Mackie 6), *GLENNIE 8, K. d. d. 6, R. chardson 6, McCall 5, Ferguson 6, Harris 5
 Referee: T. B. Smith (Edinburgh)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★
 Sending Off: Fraser (Dundee)

HIBERNIAN (0) 0
HEARTS (0) 0
 Att 20,000
 Hibs: Rough 6, Sneddon 5, Schaedler 6, McKee 4, Rae 5, Braz 15, Callaghan 5, Jamieson 6, Irvine 6, *RICE 7, Keane 5 (sub: Harvey 5)
 Hearts: Smith 6, Kidd 5, Cowie 5, *JARDINE 7, MacDonald 8, Leve 6, 5, Bowman 6, Mackay 6 (sub: MacDonald A 5), Bone 5, O'Connor 5 (sub: Johnston), Park 5
 Referee: B. R. McGarry (Bairford)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Lyal 90)
ST MIRREN (0) 0
 Att 1,856
 Motherwell: Sproat 6, MacLeod 6, Black 5, Forbes 5 (sub: Wishart 6), *KENNEDY 7, Boyd 6, Gahagan 5, McAlister 6, Rafferty 5, Lyall 6, Harrow 5 (sub: Tracey 6)
 St Mirren: *MONEY 8, Clarke 5, Hamilton 6, McCormack 5, Cooper 5, McGregor 5, Spears 5, McAvennie 5, McDougal 5, Abercromby 6, Scanlon 5 (sub: Logan 5)
 Referee: A. Ferguson (Glasgow)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

RANGERS (0) 1 (Williamson 32)
CELTIC (0) 0
 Att 40,026
 Rangers: *McCLOY 8, Nicholl 4, McClelland 7, McPherson 6, Paterson 6, Redford 7, Russell 5, Prytz 4 (sub: Mackinnon 6), Williamson 6 (sub: MacDonald), McCoist 5, Cooper 6
 Celtic: Bonner 7, *McGRAIN 8, Reid 7, Grant 5 (sub: Provan 5), McAdam 7, McStay 7, W 6, McClair 5, McStay 7, McGarvey 4 (sub: Melrose), MacLeod 5, Burns 6
 Referee: H. Alexander (Kilmarnock)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★
 Sending Off: Nicholl (Rangers)

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0
ABERDEEN (0) 2 (Stark 74, McGhee 79)
 Att 8,500
 St Johnstone: Barnes 6, K. Igour 8, Morton 5, Gibson 4, Rutherford 6, Barron 6, *LYONS 7, Scott 5, Brogan 5, Beadie 6, Bair 5
 Aberdeen: Leighton 7, Mitche 17, Rougrie 7, Stark 6, McLeish 7, *MILLER 8, Simpson 6, Black 5 (sub: McGhee 7), Porteous 6 (sub: McIntyre), Bell 5, Hewitt 5
 Referee: K. Hope (Glasgow)
 Match Rating: ★★★★★

The remainder of the Scottish programme will appear in next week's issue

DAVE'S DIARY

Saturday April 7,
to Friday April 13

Turned by struggling Derby, drawing a 3-0 win over relegation rivals Crystal Palace. Three goals from youngster Andy Garner helped relieve the tension at the Baseball Ground and, although the Rams are deep in trouble, thought they might still avoid the drop.

Added to read that Bristol City manager Terry Cooper was considering quitting football after what he described as 'sickening' scenes of crowd violence during his side's 2-0 defeat at Reading. It's a shame that supporters can't take defeat gracefully any more.

Managed to raise a smile when I saw the latest speculation story which linked Liverpool skipper Graeme Souness with Second Division promotion hopefuls Chelsea. I wonder how many of the proposed transfers will actually materialise at the end of the season.

Thought Torquay manager Dave Webb was onto a pretty safe thing when he promised his players a free week's holiday on the Continent if they won their remaining eight games. They drew their very next match. I.K. Bullins again this year, lads.

Watched with delight as Dundee United led the British challenge in Europe with a remarkable 2-0 win at home to the Italians Roma in the first leg of the European Cup Semi-Finals. The results of our other five remaining clubs were also encouraging, although depleted Manchester United struggled against Juventus.

Jokers wild!

HOLY 'keepers, Robin — it's the Joker!
Exclusive proof that Batman does exist came at the all Merseyside Milk Cup Final when Liverpool's clown prince Bruce Grobbelaar finally met his comic match in the shape of a zany spectator.
Somehow the scourge of villains the Universe over doesn't look quite the dynamic figure we all expected.



FRUIT AND NUTS

NEWSMEN covering the Everton v Southampton FA Cup Semi-Final clash at Highbury were somewhat confused by a 'new' name which appeared in Howard Kendall's starting line-up.

There, between the well-known names of Peter Reid and Adrian Heath on the press release provided by the hosts Arsenal FC — was a player called TREVOR CURRANT.

As we all know, the man wearing the number seven shirt for Everton was Terry Curran and I, for one, would love to know the 'RAISIN' why 'Gunnies' officials got his name so badly wrong.

SWITCHBACK!

RAY Stewart believes that his versatility during West Ham's injury crisis has pushed him back into the Scotland reckoning.

Full-back Ray stood in as replacement centre-half for the injured Alvin Martin and says: "My performances in that role probably persuaded Jock Stein to include me in the squad to face Wales in February.

"Unfortunately, I had to withdraw from the squad but I feel I am now in with a real chance of getting my first senior game for Scotland for more than a year.

"Some people have suggested it's my versatility which has prevented me settling down in any one particular role

Versatile Ray seeks Scotland recall

for Scotland, but I don't see it that way. "I'm equally at home in the position of full-back, centre-half or midfield and, given any one of those roles, I know I wouldn't let my country down."



Ray Stewart — versatile star.

Joe bottles it

LIVERPOOL boss Joe Fagan collected his first — and I'm sure it won't be his last — 'Manager of the Month' award in March.

Genial Joe's award, which nets him a gallon bottle of Bell's Scotch whisky and a cheque for £250, was the 30th to find its way to Anfield in 13 years.

Bill Shankly won the first of his seven in March 1971, and his successor Bob Paisley collected a record 22 during his nine-year reign.

Divisional award winners were:

Newcastle's Arthur Cox (Division Two); Sheffield United's Ian Porterfield (Division Three) and Hereford's John Newman (Division Four).

● FORMER Wolves player John Black has joined Northern Premier League side Geole Town. The 26-year-old midfielder, who also had spells with Bradford City, Chesterfield and Hereford, signed for Geole just four months into his spell with Alliance Premier League club Scarborough.



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PUNCH-UP

NEWCASTLE skipper Kevin Keegan receives a cut glass punch bowl from Charlton chairman John Fryer before the League game at the Valley on April 7 to mark his last visit to London before retiring at the end of the season.



DID YOU KNOW?

● ALL but two of London's 12 League clubs have been relegated during the last six years. The two to escape are Arsenal, who have been in the First Division since 1919, and Brentford, whose last descent happened at the end of the 1972/73 season.

● EXETER and Halifax share the unenviable record of being knocked out of the FA Cup by non-League teams more than any other Football League club since the war. Each have been on the wrong end of giant-killings nine times.



Reading follow the yellow brick road...

FOURTH Division Reading are doing it the Watford way — both on and off the field.

The promotion-climbing side have told their success-starved fans they're going to follow in the footsteps of Elton John's rocket men.

Former Spurs commercial manager Mike Lewis has been appointed managing director to

build a financial foundation and he believes Reading are in an identical position to that of Watford six years ago.

And on the playing side, new manager Ian Branfoot is a devout disciple of the Watford way, having spent two years as Graham Taylor's right-hand man with Lincoln in the 1970's.

He says: "I'm a fan of the long-ball game and I learned all about it with Graham. When it's done well, it's so effective and it gets the crowd on their feet."

"Watford are one of the best sides to watch in the country and they're proving it works at the top level. We've shown we can do it, and I'm confident it will bring us promotion in May."

ROBSON APPLAUDS FAIRCLOUGH

NOTTINGHAM Forest's up-and-coming defender Chris Fairclough put in a strong bid for an England Under-21 place when he picked up the Robinson's Barley Water 'Young Player of the Month' award for March.

The young centre-half was singled out for praise by the chairman of the panel of judges, England boss Bobby Robson, who said: "Chris could turn out to be one of the best centre-halves in the country."

"He's very sturdy and strong and never looks like making a mistake. He's accomplished in the air as well as on the ground and at the moment he's growing into ascendancy towards England Under-21 level."

Regional winners were: Manchester United's Mark Hughes (North West); Middlesbrough's Darren Wood (North East); Leeds United's Scott Sellers (Yorkshire); Fulham's Paul Parker (London, North and East Anglia); Fulham's Leroy Rosenoir (London South and South); and Swansea's Mike Hughes (Wales and West).

Everton's Cup? It's unlikely

THE odds are stacked against Everton winning the FA Cup this season.

Of the ten Semi-Final ties played at Highbury, only three of the victors have gone on to Wembley glory — Portsmouth in 1939, Ipswich Town in 1978 and Spurs in 1981.

Everton, of course, beat Southampton 1-0 at the home of the 'Gunners' in this year's Semi-Finals.



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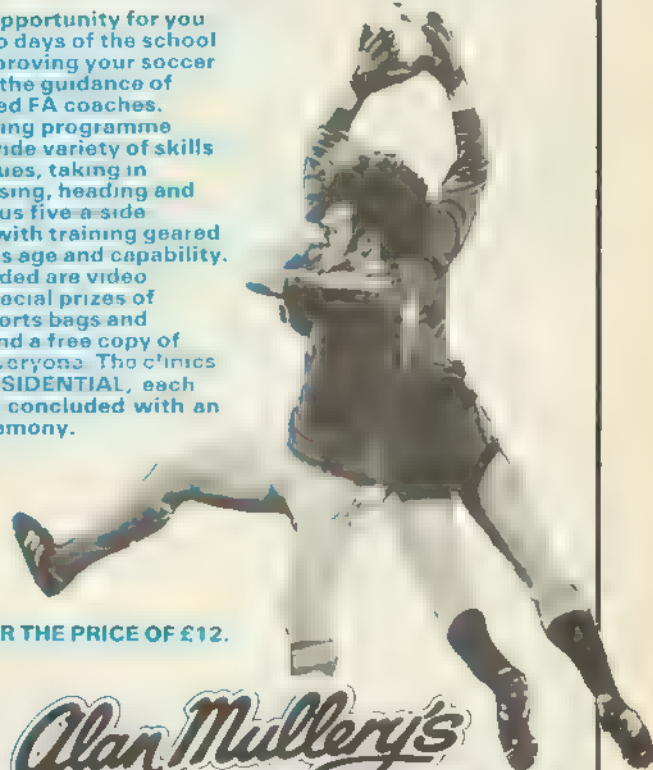
YES, Match has joined with Alan Mullery's Soccerworld to run a series of two-day soccer clinics for 9 to 17 year olds at the following venues.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
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| B Ashburton School, Croydon, Surrey | May 29 and 30 |
| C Raynes Park School, Bushey Road, London SW20 | May 29 and 30 |
| D Bulmersh School, Woodley, Reading, Berks. | May 31 and June 1 |

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Mark Dennis
Liverpool



I'VE been pleased with the way 'Match' has covered Scottish football this season. 'Scottish Scene' has been very informative and colour team pictures of Hibs, Hearts, Motherwell and Aberdeen have all been featured.

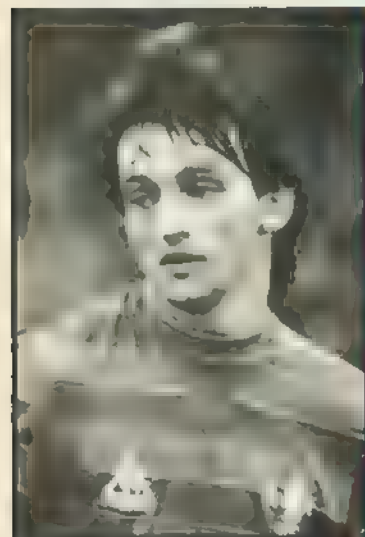
But why haven't you carried team pictures of Glasgow giants Rangers and Celtic? M. Honeyman, East London.

● **YOU'LL have missed the salute to Rangers in the April 7 issue which featured a colour picture of the Rangers team celebrating their Scottish League Cup Final victory.**

I WAS delighted to learn that the Italian football authorities are banning foreign imports for two years from July 1.

With Italian clubs scouring the world for stars, such a move was necessary.

A massive injection of foreign players into Italian football would only harm the game over there. With fewer opportunities for home-grown talent, the Italian national team would only suffer in the years to come. John Baker, Oldham, Lancs.



Chelsea's Pat Nevin — just the player to spark Scotland's revival according to Andrew Craig.

THE 1-0 victory over Northern Ireland in the British Championship was the worst England performance I have ever witnessed. England were even more awful than when losing to Denmark at Wembley.

The forward line cried out for players who could bring width to the attack — players like Mark Chamberlain and Peter Barnes. And the defence was terrible. A combination of poor Irish finishing and great goalkeeping from Peter Shilton kept the England goal intact.

England need a massive overhaul before beginning their World Cup qualifiers.

And, while we're on the subject of international football, I suggest Scotland boss Jock Stein takes a close look at Chelsea winger Pat Nevin. No Second Division defender has been able to cope with Pat's skills this season and I reckon he's just the player to spark a Scotland revival.

Andrew Craig, South London.



Edited by Mick Weavers

WELCOME to the best read letters page in football... with unique prizes for every reader who gets his or her letter published!

Yes, throughout the season we'll be giving away a super metal lapel badge (pictured) to every person whose comments are published in 'Match' and each badge will carry that special 'Terrace Talk' logo.

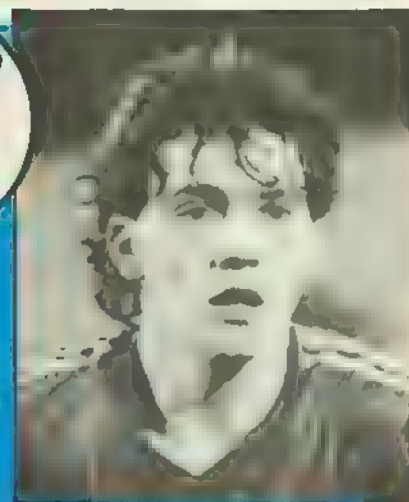
It's a prize that money can't buy and one could be yours! Plus we will be giving a prize of £10 for what we consider to be the star letter of the week and, of course, the sender will also receive a 'Terrace Talk' badge.

So get those letters coming in NOW and you could be the envy of your friends.

Write to: Michael Weavers, 'Terrace Talk' Editor, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

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RAY Wilkins and Graham Rix hogged the limelight when they were summoned back from the international wilderness to play in England's British Championship win over Northern Ireland.

But while Rix and Wilkins were lucky enough to earn an England recall, another of England's 'forgotten' midfielders was once more passed over, despite the fact that he has had an impressive season.

I am referring to Southampton's David Armstrong, who has been the driving force in 'Saints' march towards a place in Europe and their wonderful FA Cup run.

Armstrong, I believe, could be a key figure in England's bid to reach the 1986 World Cup Finals. He is a positive, attacking midfielder and can score great goals. He deserves better than to be overlooked every time an England squad is named.

Stephen Berridge, Ferndown, Dorset.

SOME of our soccer commentators should be shot! Some of the things they say are absolutely ridiculous...

● 'It was a game of two halves'. How many should there be? Three?

● 'Not a lot of football was played.' I mean, what were the players doing? Having a game of marbles?

Some commentators are funnier than Mike Yarwood. Mark Legg, Swindon, Wilts.

● **MY favourite is: 'For those viewers watching in black and white, Manchester United are playing in red shirts.'**

HOW about a pat on the back for new Middlesbrough manager Jack Charlton, who has refused to accept any wages until 'Boro are financially solvent again?

This illustrates Jack's genuine love for the game and Middlesbrough Football Club, and gestures such as these should make the headlines... instead of how many mohair suits or diamond rings a particular manager possesses. Stephen Poxon, Portsmouth, Hants.

● **I BET Britain's wildlife heaved a sigh of relief when Jack stored away his shotgun to return to football...**

SARAH Dyson of Preston (Terrace Talk, April 7) launched a scathing attack on Liverpool boss Joe Fagan for leaving Phil Thompson out of the first team.

Although Sarah was right to praise Phil's marvellous achievements both for England and Liverpool, there is absolutely no way that Phil can win back his number four shirt.

His successor, Mark Lawrenson is playing brilliantly and must be considered among the best defenders in the world at the moment.

Joe Fagan is merely picking his best possible team... and you can't knock him for that. Brian Cottiss, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

IT just shows how bad Notts County are if their most loyal fan is a dog called 'Muffin' (Match Chat, March 31). Maybe they should put him in the team to improve what is a pathetic outfit.

Marshall Delany (12), Godshall, Isle of Wight.

● **MUFFIN'S owner should be reported to the RSPCA. Forcing a dog to watch County can only be described as cruelty to dumb animals.**

IT'S crunch time for Aberdeen's title hopes.

On Saturday we kick off a frantic spell of five games in ten days which I'm sure will decide whether the Premier Division Championship is on its way to Pittodrie.

We need 57 points at the most to clinch the title and with nine games to go, we were just 13 points adrift of that total.

I'd love to get the race sewn up as quickly as possible because it would then give the manager a chance to rest a few regular members of the team in preparation for the Scottish Cup Final.



FIVE-GAME FRENZY

Hectic schedule for Aberdeen title-chasers

I'm not worried about such a hectic schedule because I believe Aberdeen have the best pool of players in Scotland and we are strong enough to pull through.

The only problem with playing so often is that you become shell-shocked. You don't quite know what day it is or who you are playing.

But I do know that on Saturday we visit Dundee at Dens Park and they'll be seething for revenge after our victory over them in the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals.

I've never played on a losing side at their place and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the sequence continues.

Obviously they were very disappointed to go out of the Cup, but we just about deserved our 2-0 victory even though we didn't play well.

My old club had their chances at Tynecastle Park. Striker Iain McDonald hit the post and our skipper Willie Miller kicked one of their efforts off the line.

Proud

We're all very proud of the fact that we've reached our third Scottish Cup Final in a row and we're determined to become the first provincial side to win it three years running.

For a change, we'll be meeting Celtic and they just scraped through thanks to a fluke goal by young Paul McStay. He was block-tackled about ten yards out and the ball flew up into the air only to be pushed into the back of the net by a strong wind.

Despite that, David Hay's men were worthy winners. Poor St Mirren must be wondering what they have to do to get to a Final. It's the third year in a row that they've fallen at the Semi-Final hurdle in this competition.

In my last column I predicted St Mirren would go

through and said that their winger Ian Scanlon was the man to torment Danny McGrain. My former Scottish team-mate must have read what I said because Danny finished up 'Man of the Match'!

On Monday we travel to St Johnstone for a re-arranged fixture. The game was abandoned after 25 minutes when we were cruising at 3-0.

We all feel a bit cheated because before the blizzard descended and the lights went out at Muirton Park, we had played some of our best football of the season. I was particularly upset because I scored a goal.

St Johnstone are the most improved side in Scotland. At one stage they looked down and out as they were rooted to the bottom of the Premier Division and eight points adrift of the nearest club.

But they have made a miraculous recovery and now stand a fighting chance of avoiding the dreaded drop. I'd like to see them stay up because they play attacking football and have added to the quality of the Premier Division this term.

They are particularly skilful in midfield where Stuart Beadle, Jimmy Morton and former Aberdeen reserve Al Lyons can all play a bit.

We face another of the last season's promoted teams just two days later when we travel to Hearts — undoubtedly the surprise team of the campaign.

Manager Alex MacDonald has done a magnificent job at Tynecastle Park and he has his players working really hard.

I must admit I thought some of the older players in the side would have been feeling the pace by now, but the youngsters seem to have compensated for their more elderly team-mates.

Deadly

Hearts aren't the most skilful side but they are workmanlike. And in John Robertson they have one of the deadliest strikers around.

I also rate their midfielders David Bowman and Gary Mackay.

On another subject, I couldn't help laughing the other week when I heard that Roma officials demanding that Dundee United players should be tested for drugs following their fabulous 2-0 victory in the first leg of the European Cup Semi-Final.

What rot! A cup of tea and a good rollicking from their manager Jim McLean is better than any drug! The Italians

THE GORDON STRACHAN COLUMN: The Aberdeen ace faces a frantic spell as he chases a Championship medal. Don't miss his exclusive column only in 'Match' every fortnight.

were really clutching at straws.

United's exploits in Europe have been amazing when you consider the resources available to them. Their success puts bigger clubs to shame.

It just goes to show what can be achieved with a good coach and tremendous team spirit.

The first title race of the season was decided earlier this month when Forfar secured the Second Division Championship and I'm delighted for their manager Doug Houston — a former team-mate of mine at Dundee.

Doug is carrying on the good work started by Archie Knox. Before Archie took over, Forfar were a joke team but he instilled pride into the club and left a really good side for his successor.

See you in two weeks.

● Gordon Strachan was talking to Anthony Hawkswell.

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FIREd-up Wales enter their last British Championship game against England desperate to prove a point.

Central defender Kevin Ratcliffe admits: "England and Scotland snubbed us by pulling out of the tournament and we are determined to show we are as good as them."

"We are all disappointed it has been scrapped and this is our last chance to prove ourselves against England."

Kevin promises a hot reception for Bobby Robson and his men when they visit Wrexham's Racecourse Ground on Wednesday. He says: "There's going to be a tremendous atmosphere and sense of occasion."

"I always enjoyed playing in the Championship and going to places

like Wembley and Hampden. Many of us won't get a chance to go there again and that's a great pity."

England are under pressure to turn in a convincing performance following their disappointing showing against Northern Ireland earlier this month.

Says Kevin: "They were criticised for only beating the Irish 1-0, so they will be eager to get a couple of goals against us."

But he warns: "We won't be pushovers. We have a lot of class players in the team."

"There isn't a 'keeper who has enjoyed a better season than my Everton team-mate Nev Southall. He's been in fantastic form."

"He is only 25 and it's said that goalkeepers don't reach their peak until they are past 30. If that's so,

he has a tremendous future ahead of him."

"I've always rated Robbie James as an outstanding player. The Stoke star is one of the best right-sided midfield players around and he also makes a useful centre-forward when needed."

"Burnley's Brian Flynn may have been on the scene for a long time, but he still does a valuable job in midfield. He never stops battling and is full of enthusiasm."

"We have the right sort of players who can close opponents down and force them into making mistakes. And when we get a chance, my old friend Ian Rush can usually be relied upon to put it away."

The Everton skipper admits that England's problems could rebound on the Welsh and says: "They have been slagged unmercifully in the Press so they'll be determined to put in a good performance."

"England are going through a transition and you can't tell what players Bobby Robson will field."

"The only certain thing is that skipper Bryan Robson will play if he's fit. It will be him and ten others."

"To a certain extent, England suffer because they have so many players to choose from. The manager is spoilt for choice."

"But that's not the case with us. We haven't got unlimited resources and you usually know who will be in the squad. There's hardly ever any strange faces."

Kevin believes that can be an advantage as he explains: "You develop a family atmosphere. In many ways it's just like being back with your club."

"You build up a rapport with your team-mates and there's a tremendous atmosphere among the players."

The 23-year-old captained Wales for the first time in their Championship game against



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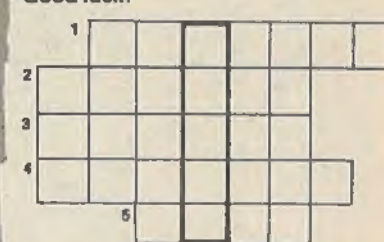
The egg cups come in a choice of two colour styles too: **STYLE ONE** — red shirt and shorts with white trim; **STYLE TWO** — red shirt and white shorts with black and white trim.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of these useful mascots is study the following 'soccer grid' questions. Correctly answered, they will form the name of a top First Division team reading vertically between the thick black lines:

- 1 Christian name of top Ipswich defender.
 - 2 This team plays at St James Park.
 - 3 Colin Todd plays for this Third Division team.
 - 4 Nickname of Bury.
 - 5 Surname of Chelsea's manager.
- Then all you have to do is fill in the special coupon provided and send it off to: 'Quackers Competition', Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

Entries must reach us by Friday May 4 and results will appear in our May 19 issue.

The senders of the first 25 correct entries pulled from the postbag each win a super egg cup. Good luck!



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Address.....

..... Age

Choice of colour

(style 1 or 2)

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(Block capital letters please)

Snubbed!

SO ENGLAND WILL FEEL THE DRAGONS' BACKLASH



Kevin Ratcliffe warns England: "We won't be pushovers."

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
N. Ireland	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
England	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Wales	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Scotland at Hampden Park in February and he says: "Alongside leading Everton out for the Milk Cup Final at Wembley, it was the high spot of my career."

"But I don't know whether I'll get the job next week. Manager Mike England didn't say whether it was a permanent appointment or not."

"Wales have had six or seven captains in the last couple of years and I was very proud to follow in the footsteps of Terry Yorath, Leighton Phillips, Brian Flynn, Joey Jones, Dai Davies and Paul Price," says Kevin, who made his international debut against Czechoslovakia in 1981.

As well as a chance to get one over on the old enemy, Kevin also sees the game against England as an opportunity to build for the World Cup qualifiers.

Wales have been drawn in Group Seven alongside Scotland, Spain and Iceland. Kevin admits: "It's a very tough draw indeed so it's important that we are fully prepared when our opening game kicks off in September."

Melvyn Beck is... AT YOUR SERVICE

QUESTION: Please could you tell me the attendances for the following games?
Michael Gardiner, Fleet, Hants.

ANSWER: 1982 Gillingham v Fulham (9,895); 1982 West Brom v Leeds (23,118); 1983 St Johnstone v Partick (4,700); 1983 England v Hungary (55,000); 1983 West Brom v Norwich (9,221).

QUESTION: I am an avid Tottenham fan and have all their League, FA and Milk Cup results with the exception of the Milk Cup run in 1981-82. Could you please help?
D. Kissane, County Kerry.

ANSWER: Second Round, first leg: Tottenham 1 (Archibald), Man. United 0; Second Leg: Man. United 0, Tottenham 1 (Hazard); Third Round: Tottenham 2 (Hoddle, Hughton), Wrexham 0; Fourth Round: Tottenham 1 (Hazard), Fulham 0; Quarter-Final: Tottenham 1 (Ardiles), Nott'm Forest 0; Semi-Final, First Leg: West Brom 0, Tottenham 0; Second Leg: Tottenham 1 (Hazard), West Brom 0. Final: Liverpool 3 (Whelan 2, Rush), Tottenham 1 (Archibald) after extra-time.

QUESTION: Could you please tell me the results of the following three matches in the European Championship qualifying programme?
Craig McConnell, Belfast.

ANSWER: They are all from Group Two: USSR 2, Poland 0; Poland 1, Portugal 1; Portugal 1, USSR 0.

QUESTION: Please could you tell me the Manchester United scorers in their League Cup matches against Stockport and Watford in 1978-79 and also the Liverpool and Manchester United teams for the 1977 Charity Shield?

Gerard Murray, Dublin.
ANSWER: Joe Jordan, Sammy McIlroy and Jimmy Greenhoff (penalty) scored in the 3-2 win at Stockport, while Jordan scored in the 2-1 home defeat by Watford. 1977 Charity Shield, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0. Liverpool: Clemente, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy R., Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Fairclough, McDermott, Callaghan. Man. United: Stepney, Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Greenhoff B., Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff J., (Sub McCreery), Pearson, Macari, Hill.

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GARY MEGSON (SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY): Position: Midfield. Born: Manchester, April 2, 1959. League debut: (For Plymouth) v Oxford, October 22, 1977. League appearances: Plymouth 78, Everton 20, Sheff. Wed. 115.

● League appearances up to and including April 7, 1984.

Celebration time for Sheffield Wednesday's Gary Megson (left) and John Pearson.

Birthday Team of the Week



EDDIE NIEDZWIECKI (CHELSEA): Position: Goalkeeper. Born: Bangor, May 3, 1959. League debut: (For Wrexham) v Oxford, August 22, 1977. League appearances: Wrexham 111, Chelsea 35.



GERRY DALY (COVENTRY): Position: Midfield. Born: Dublin, April 30, 1954. League debut (For Manchester United) v Arsenal, August 25, 1973. League appearances: Man. Utd 107, Derby 111, Leicester (on loan) 17, Coventry 75.



DANNY McGRAIN (CELTIC): Position: Defender. Born: Glasgow, May 1, 1950. League debut: (For Celtic) v Morton, August 29, 1970. League appearances: Celtic 350.



BILLY WRIGHT (BIRMINGHAM): Position: Midfield. Born: Liverpool, April 28, 1958. League debut: (For Everton) v Middlesbrough, April 22, 1978. League appearances: Everton 164, Birmingham 33.



KEVIN MORAN (MANCHESTER UNITED): Position: Defender. Born: Dublin, April 29, 1956. League debut: (For Man. Utd) v Southampton, April 30, 1979. League appearances: Manchester United 131.



TREVOR WHYMARK (SOUTHEND): Position: Striker. Born: Burnston, April 4, 1950. League debut: (For Ipswich) v Manchester City, February 28th, 1980. League appearances: Ipswich 249, Derby (on loan) 2, Grimsby 83, Southend 8.



DAVID O'LEARY (ARSENAL): Position: Defender. Born: London, May 2, 1958. League debut: v Burnley, August 16, 1975. League appearances: Arsenal 302.



TREVOR QUINN (OLDHAM): Position: Striker. Born: Liverpool, May 2, 1962. League debut: (For Wigan) v Halifax, April 12, 1980. League appearances: Wigan 56, Stockport 62, Oldham 10.



MARK DENNIS (SOUTHAMPTON): Position: Defender. Born: Streatham, April 2, 1961. League debut: (For Birmingham) v Norwich, September 16, 1978. League appearances: Birmingham 130, Southampton 18.



TONY TOWNER (WOLVES): Position: Striker. Born: Brighton, May 2, 1955. League debut (For Brighton) v Luton, February 10, 1973. League appearances: Brighton 153, Millwall 68, Rotherham 108, Sheffield United (on loan) 9, Wolves 20.

Murphy's law!

'WE HAVE TO SELL TO SURVIVE'

LINCOLN City has become a breeding ground for the stars — a club forced to sell to survive. Here manager Colin Murphy talks frankly to reporter Dave Smith about the problems of managing a 'small-town' club ... and the top players he's seen come and go.

LONG-SERVING manager Colin Murphy admits that Lincoln City may never become a big club.

With typical philosophy he accepts that his tiny outfit might even struggle to survive in the Second Division.

But at a time when so many clubs are facing a cash crisis, it's with a considerable amount of satisfaction that the Sincil Bank boss declares:

"As far as the financial side is concerned, Lincoln City is as safe as houses. And at a time when so many clubs of greater stature are facing the threat of going to the wall, that's quite an achievement."

Not that Colin doesn't want success on the field too, but he's facing up to the harsh reality of life at a 'small-town' club in the lower reaches of the League.

And putting the homely, little club on a sound financial footing has meant making the inevitable sacrifices.

In order to keep the bank manager happy, Colin has had to sell off his best players — leaving him to operate with a skeleton squad on a shoestring budget.

Since taking charge of the club in November, 1978 he has sold four of his star players — one of them twice!

But he's raised more than £½ million to steer Lincoln clear of debt and he declares:

"If when I took over I had said I would make that much money with five sales they would have put me in a mental hospital!"

"Had I been able to keep all my players this club could be in the Second Division now."

"Unfortunately we are still in the Third, but at least those transfer deals have made the future of Lincoln City FC safe."

Colin, together with his assistant John Pickering, has turned Sincil Bank into a breeding ground for stars, transforming promising youngsters into saleable assets.

His first coup in the transfer market was selling striker Mick Harford to Newcastle for a staggering £180,000.

Mick's departure was followed by that of black forward Tony Cunningham (now Sheffield Wednesday) to Barnsley for £100,000 and defender Trevor Peake to Coventry for the same fee.

In the meantime he sold midfielder Glenn Cockerill to Swindon for £110,000, bought him back a year later for £40,000

and then last month persuaded Sheffield United to part with £125,000.

"All together, those deals have brought the club more than £½m and when you consider the players cost us a meagre £33,000 in total it represents quite a profit," enthuses Colin.

"While it may have cost us promotion to the Second Division, the club now can run on that money for a few years."

"Of course a manager mustn't lose sight of what we're all in the game for ... and that's to win promotion until you reach the highest level."

"But at the same time, you have to decide whether it's worth getting success at the expense of the trading position of the club. It's a problem we have to learn to live with."

"If we had kept our players and won promotion we could have gone bankrupt because of all the extra expense you incur, such as ground improvements and wage rises."

"When bigger clubs do well they get a lot of support, but here at Lincoln we are not quite so lucky."

"In fact even when we were near the top of Division Three for about two years our average gate was still only around the 4,000 mark."

"Lincolnshire is a sparsely populated area and an essentially farming community with only mild support for the game and the club."

"Normally the success of a football club reflects on the number of people going through the turnstiles, but that's not always the case here. We're fighting a losing battle."

Despite the difficulties, Colin has succeeded in achieving a number of ambitions since joining the club from Derby.

He says: "When I came here my aim was to develop players, produce a competent side, rid the club of its debts and hopefully gain promotion along the way."

"In the last five years we have gone from the Fourth to the Third Division and built a stable platform on which to launch another promotion assault."

"That becomes increasingly difficult when you have to keep selling your best players but you have to try and strike a balance between success and survival."

Colin Murphy — "If I had said I would make more than £½ million from five sales, they would have put me into a mental hospital."



THE STARS I HAD TO SELL...

MICK HARFORD: He was already at the club when I arrived and he was very raw. When he moved to Newcastle about three years ago for £180,000 he struggled to make a great impression and there were doubts whether he would succeed at a higher level. But he has knuckled down and during the last year or so at Birmingham has proved himself a first class striker.



TONY CUNNINGHAM: I paid non-League Stourbridge £18,000 for Tony. Not many people thought he was worth it, but he came on in leaps and bounds and has done well in the Second Division with both Barnsley and Sheffield Wednesday. It looks like he will be playing in the top flight next season and it will be interesting to see how he fares.



TREVOR PEAKE: I bought him from Nuneaton Borough for £15,000 and from a promising non-League player he has developed into a class defender. Since I sold him to Coventry for £100,000 he has done very well in the First Division and all he has to prove now is that he can do it consistently.



GLENN COCKERILL: When I joined Lincoln, Glenn couldn't even get a game in the reserves and that speaks volumes for the hard work he has put in to reach the standard he is now at. I sold him to Swindon, but bought him back when he didn't settle and now he's at Sheffield United where I'm sure he has a bright future.



YORK CITY

BACK ROW (left to right): Viv Busby (player/coach), Alan Hay, Ricky Shragle, John Byrne, Mike Asbury, Keith Walwyn, John McPhail, Derek Hood, Dennis Smith (player/manager).

FRONT ROW: Chris Evans, Brian Pollard, Malcolm Crosby, Roger Jones, Steve Senior, Gary Ford, Sean Haslegrave. Inset: Keith Houchen.



match